

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2005

# Troops detain several key insurgent leaders

Marines, soldiers capture rebels in series of Iraq raids Page 3



**In Iraq, unit adapts to infantry role**

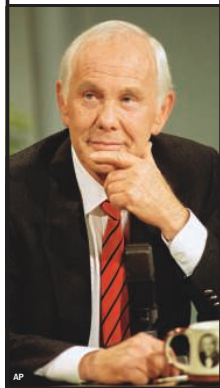
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JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Medic Spc. Angelo Veguilla, left, and other soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company of 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment walk Thursday along a road bordering farmers' fields and railroad tracks north of Abu Ghraib, Iraq, as they search for weapons caches. The soldiers from the platoon found a Russian rocket, which had its explosives removed, and two 155 mm artillery rounds during their search Thursday. The company, which has five support platoons, is being used by the battalion as infantry.

**Johnny Carson, late night king, dies**

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AP

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Washington governor's race:** The state's Republicans, still pressing their court challenge to the disputed governor's election, have filed a separate challenge with the state Legislature. "We did this to cover all our bases," said Mary Lane, a spokeswoman for Dino Rossi, the Republican who narrowly won the original vote count and a mandatory recount. In a hand recount, he lost to Democrat Christine Gregoire by 129 votes out of 2.9 million cast.

Gregoire was sworn into office Jan. 12. Republicans have filed a legal challenge against the hand recount in Chelan County Superior Court, saying mistakes were made and calling for another statewide vote. That same challenge was filed with the Legislature Friday evening, "as an insurance policy," Lane said Saturday.

**California mudslide:** Friends and family gathered Saturday on a windy beach to bid farewell to 10 people who were killed when a mudslide damaged more than two dozen homes in the free-spirited oceanfront village of La Conchita.

Hundreds of people wearing shorts, sandals and Hawaiian shirts converged for the ceremony in which about 50 surfers paddled 300 yards from shore, the names of the victims were read, and family and friends scattered orchid leis in the waves.

The mudslide on Jan. 10 was triggered by days of heavy rain that turned Southern California into a flood zone. The torrential rain was responsible for 28 deaths in the state.

**Boston's Big Dig:** Big Dig ramp supports, which were designed to give the ramps smoother lines and greater stability, are attracting unwelcome pigeons and allowing homeless people access to passageways reserved for inspectors.

The bird droppings are unhygienic for inspectors and increase the risk of corrosion, while unauthorized people in passageways pose possible security risks.

Last week, project supervisors decided to spend up to \$500,000 for screens over holes that were designed to give inspectors easy access to the supports but have also allowed pigeons to enter and roost. The Boston Globe reported. Officials have also placed metal rods across doors reachable from the ground, so they can be opened only by authorized personnel.

**Cruise ship sickness:** More than 250 people aboard a cruise ship fell ill with a stomach virus while touring the western Caribbean cruise line office said Saturday.

About 233 of the 3,465 passengers aboard the Mariner of the Seas became sick after the vessel left Port Canaveral on Jan. 16 for a seven-day cruise through the western Caribbean. The ship was expected to return early Sunday.

Twenty of the vessel's 1,190 crew members also showed symptoms. Michael Sheehan, a spokesman for Royal Caribbean International, described the illness as "your typical 24-hour stomach virus and nothing more" and blamed a sick passenger for bringing it on board.

The Mariner of the Seas was being checked for bacteria, the company said.

### War on terrorism

**Chinese hostages:** Eight Chinese construction workers taken hostage by Iraqi insurgents have been safely transferred to Chinese custody, China's Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

In a statement posted on its Web site Sunday night, the Foreign Ministry said the



**Hong Kong elections:** Protesters wear inflatable headpieces in the shape of chickens that symbolize the Chinese word for referendum, referring to a referendum on direct elections, as more than 1,000 people held a rally and later marched in downtown Hong Kong on Sunday to demand full democracy and social justice in the Chinese territory. The protesters chanted "Direct elections in 2007 and 2008," the years in which Hong Kong is due to get new leader and legislature. This former British colony was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997 with a guarantee of democratic political rights that do not exist on the mainland, but many residents who want democracy say Beijing exerts too much control.

eight men were in good health and the Embassy in Baghdad was arranging for their return to China.

The eight men were handed over to an Embassy representative at a mosque in the western city of Ramadi.

"We are gratified that the Chinese citizens were safely released. We wish to show our thanks to those who helped launch rescue efforts," said ministry spokesman Kong Quan.

### World

**Palestinian girl shot:** The family of a 13-year-old Gaza girl shot by an Israeli soldier and shot again by an officer — a case that drew broad international criticism — has sued the military, a lawyer said Sunday.

In its appeal to Israel's Supreme Court, the family of Iyman Hams asked to move the case from a military to a civilian court, release the results of the investigation and examine orders that led to the shooting, said lawyer Lahib Habib.

Soldiers fired at the girl as she approached a military observation post near the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip on Oct. 5. The soldiers said they thought she was planting a bomb. The girl's family said she was on her way to school.

**Nobel literature laureate on stamp:** Elfriede Jelinek, the reclusive winner of the 2004 Nobel Prize in literature, has turned down an offer by Austria's post office to feature her image on a stamp, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Jelinek told postal officials she sought "no personal honors" and was uncomfortable with the idea of her face on a stamp, the newspaper Die Presse said. The proposed stamp would have featured her likeness and a reference to the Nobel.

Jelinek did not attend the Dec. 10 Nobel festivities in Stockholm, Sweden, because of what she describes as "a social phobia." She opted instead to receive the award last night in a small ceremony at the residence of the Swedish ambassador in Vienna.

**Afghan opium crop:** The poppy fields that once crowded every scrap of farmland in eastern Afghanistan have been supplanted

— by wheat. Farmers are slashing their cultivation of opium, government and foreign officials say, in a bright start for President Hamid Karzai's U.S.-sponsored campaign against the world's largest illegal narcotics industry.

Nationwide, officials forecast a drop of between 30 percent to 70 percent in this year's crop. In crucial growing areas such as eastern Nangarhar province and southern Helmand, it could be down more than three-quarters, they say, though reliable statistics are not yet available.

The surprise cutback in poppy growing is increasing pressure on the international community to deliver hundreds of millions in aid to prevent a potentially violent backlash by impoverished Afghans who have survived by growing opium.

**Sudan southern rebels:** Leaders of Sudan's main southern rebel group on Sunday were debating a peace deal to end Africa's longest-running war, a day before they planned to vote on approving the agreement with Sudan's government.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army's legislative body is expected to endorse the Jan. 9 agreement, which its leader John Garang signed with Sudanese Vice President Ati Osman Mohamed Taha.

The deal, once ratified by the rebels' National Liberation Council, would be legally binding on the entire group.

**Serbia war crimes:** Serbia-Montenegro's foreign minister has called for a special parliamentary session to address U.S. and EU demands that Belgrade arrest and extradite war crime suspects to the U.N. court.

Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic warned in comments published on Sunday by the Tanjug news agency that further stalling on the extradition of about a dozen fugitives wanted by the tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, would have "tragic and irreparable" consequences.

Serbia-Montenegro, or what used to be Yugoslavia, faces possible international isolation because of its reluctance to extradite the suspects, including former Bosnian Serb army commander Ratko Mladic and four Serb police and army generals.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

# U.S. troops detain key insurgent leaders

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

**RAMADI, Iraq** — A joint task force of U.S. soldiers and Marines has detained several "key Ramadibased insurgent leaders," including leaders of a bomb-making cell and an associate of suspected terror ringleader of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, officials said Saturday.

According to 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division officials, the 10 men were captured over a series of raids completed last week. The raids were conducted by members of the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry; and 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, all of which operate in and around Ramadi.

The captured leaders include a man identified by the military as

Abel al Sattar Ismael, allegedly the leader of "multiple improvised explosive device manufacturing terror cells," according to a military statement.

Ismael's terror cells included more than 60 fighters, operating in 13 cells "responsible for attacks... including mortar attacks, suicide bomb attacks and roadside bombs," the statement read.

U.S. forces said they also captured Ismael's second in command, a man they described as responsible for transporting militants to and from attacks and providing vehicles and weapons to the terror cells.

Officials said the forces also detained several members of the terror group known as the 1920th Revolutionary Battalion, a group military intelligence officials say

is comprised of former Baath Party members and the Iraqi military.

The raids also netted a man identified as Ismael Jeddani, an alleged associate of al-Zarqawi, often described as the most wanted man in Iraq. U.S. officials have a \$25 million bounty on al-Zarqawi's head.

2nd Brigade officials said last week's raids also netted several members of kidnapping rings who target foreigners or Iraqis working with U.S. forces. More than 4,200 soldiers from 2nd Brigade and other associated units — including a field artillery unit and an engineer unit — deployed from South Korea to Iraq last fall and have been operating under command of the 1st Marine Division since arriving.

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## Alleged bomb-maker caught

Stars and Stripes

The Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, now in Iraq, recently captured an insurgent who told the unit he was a bomb-maker, the 31st MEU has announced in a news release.

Several large caches of weapons, ammunition and documents were seized from the insurgent's home after he was captured during a small raid in Karabillah, the release stated, adding that the caches contained enough materials to produce more than 30 improvised explosive devices.

The insurgent told the troops he had retrieved all of the ord-

nance from an old Iraqi army ammunition supply point in Sa'dah, loading his vehicle full of ordnance before returning home, where he buried the munitions in several locations throughout his property.

The man claimed that he began building IEDs during summer 2003, the release stated, and since then, has detonated several of the devices against Multi-National Force convoys.

The weapons were destroyed, the 31st MEU stated.

The unit's current mission, the release stated, is to enhance security and stability in western Iraq and the Anbar province in support of the upcoming Iraqi elections.

# U.S. ambassador: Serious problems ahead of Iraq election

BY ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — The U.S. ambassador acknowledged serious problems ahead of next weekend's election but gave assurance Sunday that "great efforts" were being made to ensure every Iraqi can vote.

Meanwhile, in an audiotape posted on the Web, a speaker claiming to be Iraq's most feared terrorist declared "fierce war" on democracy, raising the stakes in the vote.

Also, five swept through the general hospital in a southern Iraqi city early Sunday, killing 14 people and injuring 75, said a spokesman for the Italian military forces based in the city.

Rebels who have vowed to disrupt the balloting blew up a designated polling station near Hillah south of Baghdad and stormed a police station in Ramadi west of the capital, authorities said.

A U.S. soldier was killed Saturday on a security patrol in Mosul, the U.S. command said Sunday. U.S. and Iraqi officials fear more such attacks in the run-up to Sunday's election and have announced massive security measures to protect voters. Iraqi war veterans chose a 275-seat National Assembly and provincial councils in Iraq's 18 provinces in the first nationwide balloting since the ouster of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Large turnouts are expected among Iraq's majority Shiites in the south and minority Kurds in the northeast. But the big question is whether Sunni Arab Muslims, who form the core of the insurgency, will defy rebel threats and boycott calls from their clergy and participate in substantial numbers.

In a series of interviews Sunday on American television talk shows, U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte acknowledged an increase in rebel intimidation of Iraqi officials and security forces and noted serious security problems remain in the Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad.



**A U.S. Army tank crew watches over Iraqi National Guard soldiers on patrol in Mosul, Iraq, on Sunday. U.S. and Iraqi officials fear a spike in bloodshed and have announced massive security measures to protect voters from possible insurgent attacks during the elections.**

"But security measures are being taken, by both the multinational forces here in Iraq as well as the Iraqi armed forces and police," Negroponte told "Fox News Sunday." "There will be some problematic areas... But even there, great efforts are being made to enable every Iraqi eligible to do so to be able to vote."

Underlining the threat, a speaker identifying himself as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of Iraq's al-Qaida affiliate — condemned the election, branding candidates as "demi-ids" and saying those who vote for them "are infidels" — a clear threat to the safety of all those who participate in the balloting.

The speaker warned Iraqis to be careful of "the enemy's plan to implement so-called democracy in your country." He said the

Americans have engineered the election to install Shiite Muslims in power. Al-Zarqawi has in the past branded Shiites as heretics.

Most of the insurgents are believed to be Sunni Arabs, who lost influence and privilege with the fall of their patron Saddam. Their ranks have been reinforced by non-Iraqi Arab extremists who have come to Iraq to wage holy war against the Americans.

In order to encourage as big a turnout of Sunnis as possible, U.S. and Iraqi troops have stepped up security operations in Baghdad, Mosul and other tense areas, rounding up hundreds of suspected insurgents. The U.S. command announced Sunday it had arrested an undisclosed "top insurgent suspect" in Baghdad after hunting him for nearly a year.

Sunni elder statesman Adnan Pachachi, who is running for the

National Assembly, told CNN's "Late Edition" that prospects for a good Sunni turnout had improved somewhat in recent weeks but it was important that Sunnis be properly represented in the new government.

To shake public confidence in the elections, insurgents have accelerated attacks against Iraq's security services, trained by the Americans but plagued by leadership and morale problems. A major insurgent group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, posted a videotape Sunday on a Web site showing the assassination of an Iraqi army colonel captured in Mosul.

The tape showed a man in civilian clothes holding a military identification card. As the man sat in a chair, a masked gunman approached from his right and shot him in the head with a rifle.

The blaze at the Nasiriyah Gen-

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,371 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,077 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,233 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 968 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- No deaths reported.
- The best identifications reported by military.
- No identifications reported.

eral Hospital was believed to have been caused by an electrical fault, the fire department said.

The injured were transported to another hospital in the city, about 200 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Dr. Francesco Torino, a spokesman for the Italian contingent in Nasiriyah, said that 14 people died and 75 were injured.

# GIs sentenced in Iraqi interpreter's death

By DOUG STRUCK  
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Two U.S. soldiers were sentenced to prison terms Saturday for the shooting death of an Iraqi interpreter in November at an Army base in Baghdad.

One of the soldiers said that he and his colleague had been "joking and horsingplay" with the translator when the interpreter was pulled on a pistol pointed at her head. The soldiers said they did not realize the gun was loaded.

Sp. Charley Hooser, 28, of Midland, Texas, received a three-year term for involuntary manslaughter and filing a false report. Sp. Rami Adjani, 24, a Palestinian who attended school in the United States and served as an interpreter, was sentenced to

## Two also are demoted and dishonorably discharged

18 months for being an accessory after the fact and for filing a false report. Both men were ordered demoted to the rank of private and dishonorably discharged.

The soldiers had originally told investigators that the interpreter, identified in court as Luma Hadi, 28, had accidentally shot herself, according to testimony at a court-martial Saturday at Camp Victory near Baghdad. Both men pleaded guilty to the charges in an agreement with Army prosecutors and offered tearful apologies for the incident before they were sentenced.

Hadi helped interview Iraqis taken into custody by U.S. forces.

Hooser said he and Adjani were her close friends and that

they had been playing around in the office where they all worked. She was laughing and joking, Adjani said.

"Somebody said something about shooting someone. We said we could just kill Luma," Hooser testified in court.

Both men said Adjani reached into a locker where Hadi had stored a pistol she carried for her protection and handed it to Hooser without checking whether it was loaded. Hooser said he pointed the gun at Hadi and squeezed the trigger, also without checking it.

"I can never say 'sorry' enough," Hooser said in court. "I killed a friend in a split second of stupidity. I have no excuse."

It was unclear why the weapon was loaded. The prosecutor, Capt. Lawrence Edell, said Adjani admitted to "having put a magazine in the weapon on purpose." But Adjani testified that he did not notice it was loaded when he picked it up.

Hadi, who formerly worked as an interpreter for The Washington Post, was the mother of a 6-year-old girl. According to Edell, U.S. authorities paid the family \$25,000 in compensation for her death.

Hadi's family did not attend the court session because it was too dangerous to travel there, her brother, Ali, said. The family's name is being withheld to protect their safety.

When Ali heard the news of Hooser's sentence, he broke down in tears and said he was surprised the soldier had been sentenced to time in prison.

"I am happy, because he was punished by the law," he said, "but I am sad because I remember my sister."

Ali said his family had not told Hadi's daughter that her mother was dead. "If we live, in the future, we will tell Sara everything about how her mother was brave and lovely," Ali said.

One of Hadi's friends reacted to the sentencing with mixed feelings. "This is justice, but Luma would have hated this," said the friend, a fellow Iraqi translator. "She loved the soldiers. She never would have wanted this to happen to them."

Correspondent Jackie Spinner contributed to this report.

## I.S. medics are going the extra mile to help sick Afghan children

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A man cradling a sickly child in his arms and walking for a couple of hours to get help makes for a powerful image.

Perhaps just as inspiring is the willingness of people half a world away to step forward and save the little guy with a bad heart from certain death.

The outpouring of support "has been just amazing," said Capt. Mike Roscoe, a physician assistant with the 76th Infantry Brigade, Indiana National Guard.

By late February, the beneficiaries, who have rallied to the aid of Qudrat Ullah, hope to fly the 1-year-old to the United States for a heart operation.

"He will die without the surgery," said Lt. Col. Torry Snow, the brigade's civil military affairs officer.

During an October visit to a refugee camp near Kabul, a brigade medical staff evaluated Qudrat, one of many kids examined that day. It confirmed an earlier diagnosis by a Pakistani doctor that Qudrat has a hole in his heart, in which the flow of blood through his body.

But due to a lack of adequate equipment on hand and certain policies, the medical team could not move him. Two days later, the boy's father, Hakim Gu, walked to Camp Phoenix with his only child in his arms.

Thus began a tedious effort by the guard unit to get Qudrat to Riley's Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. It involved coordinating with doctors and organizations, fund-raising and plenty of paperwork, such as visas.

"Every time we turned around there seemed to be a roadblock," Snow said.

Doctors at the hospital have offered to perform the surgery, estimated to cost at least \$50,000, free of charge.

Roscoe said. In addition, the Rotary Club of Greenfield, Ind., of which Snow is a member, has agreed to cover many of the out-of-pocket expenses during the estimated 30-day stay.

"We're just waiting for the military to OK his flight," Roscoe said. "Everything is ready. Our end is pretty much done."

Meanwhile, another effort is under way to send a 5-year-old Afghan boy stateside for surgery to repair his arms, chest and back, which were burned in a house fire. The fire killed his mother and a couple of siblings.

Patrick Thibault, a medic in Herat who, while assigned to Camp Phoenix, treated the boy. "If he could get the operation, I'll be back to normal in a couple of years."

"He's a tough cookie," said Sgt. Patrick Thibault, a medic in Herat who, while assigned to Camp Phoenix, treated the boy. "If he could get the operation, I'll be back to normal in a couple of years."

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JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment's Mortar Platoon take a break after searching nearby fields for weapons caches. The battalion uses its HHC as an infantry unit, setting aside a sector that they patrol. The platoon deployed with its normal complement of mortarmen and added soldiers from the Reconnaissance Platoon, medics and even two cooks.

## Regiment adapts to infantry role

By JASON CHUDY  
Stars and Stripes

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment figure that if they look like infantry, act like infantry, and, if need be, fight like infantry, they'll be treated like infantry.

So when the battalion recently moved to Abu Ghraib, just north of Camp Liberty, the unit was given its own operating sector, just like other infantry companies.

"We've owned this sector from the very beginning," said company commander Capt. Bill Prayner. "We've been used as a maneuver company."

"We do more things than being mortarmen," said Sgt. 1st

Class Brad McCarty, Mortar Platoon sergeant. "It's an unexpected mission, but I'm glad we've got this mission."

The mortar platoon's mission on Thursday was to walk through farmers' fields just north of the town and search for weapons caches. Most of the company's five platoons have similar missions.

"We are an infantry platoon, how do you like that?" Mortarman Spc. Philip Morrison said as he manned his Humvee's machine gun. "We're not as big and can't flex as much power (as a regular infantry platoon)."

Morrison pointed to his Humvee's odometer as proof to the roads and fields his unit has been to. When the company received the Humvee two weeks earlier it had 68 miles on it. Now it's approaching 1,500, he said.

Coming back from those fields after a few hours of searching, the remainder of the platoon reported success. Soldiers found a rusted rocket-propelled grenade launcher, some rusted magazines, a Russian-built rocket with its explosives removed and two 155mm artillery shells.

It was a pretty good day for soldiers who are trained to fire shells, not find them.

Along with the mortarmen on patrol that day were a handful of cooks and medics.

"The Army is looking for adaptive leaders and adaptive units," said Prayner. "I utilize every guy I can. They all go out as rifle-men."

"We're not special, we do our job every day," he explained. "We're just 'big collar.'"

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# Secret intel unit expands Rumsfeld's domain

BY BARTON GELLMAN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon, expanding into the CIA's historic bailiwick, has created a new espionage arm and is reinterpreting U.S. law to give Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld broad authority over clandestine operations abroad, according to interviews with participants and documents obtained by The Washington Post.

The previously undisclosed organization, called the Strategic Support Branch, arose from Rumsfeld's written order to end his "near total dependence on CIA" for what is known as human intelligence.

Designed to operate without detection and under the defense secretary's direct control, the Strategic Support Branch deploys small teams of case officers, linguists, interrogators and technical specialists alongside newly empowered special operations forces.

Military and civilian participants in interviews that the new unit has been operating in secret for two years — in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places — declined to name. According to an early planning memorandum

to Rumsfeld from Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the focus of the intelligence initiative is on "emerging target countries such as Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia, Philippines and Georgia."

Myers and his staff declined to be interviewed.

The Strategic Support Branch was created to provide Rumsfeld with independent tools for the "full spectrum of human operations," according to an internal account of its origin and mission.

Human intelligence operations, a term used in counterpoint to technical means such as satellite photography, range from interrogation of prisoners and scouting of targets in wartime to the peacetime recruitment of foreign spies. A recent Pentagon memo states that recruited agents may include "notorious figures" whose links to the U.S. government would be embarrassing if disclosed.

Perhaps the most significant shift is the Defense Department's

bid to conduct surreptitious missions, in friendly and unfriendly states, when conventional war is a distant or unlikely prospect — activities that have traditionally been the province of the CIA's Directorate of Operations. Senior Rumsfeld advisers said those missions are central to what they called the department's predominant role in combating terrorist threats.

The Pentagon has a vast bureaucracy devoted to gathering and analyzing intelligence, often in concert with the CIA, and news reports over more than a year have described Rumsfeld's drive for more and better human intelligence. But the creation of the espionage branch, the scope of its clandestine operations and the breadth of Rumsfeld's asserted legal authority have not been detailed publicly before. Two longtime members of the House Intelligence Committee, a Democrat and a Republican, said they knew no details before being interviewed for this article.

Pentagon officials said they established the Strategic Support Branch using "reprogrammed" funds, without explicit congressional authority or appropriation. Defense intelligence missions,

they said, are subject to less stringent congressional oversight than comparable operations by the CIA. Rumsfeld's dissatisfaction with the CIA's operations directorate, and his determination to build what amounts in some respects to a rival service, follows struggles with then-CIA Director George Tenet over intelligence collection priorities in Afghanistan and Iraq. Pentagon officials said the CIA naturally has interests that differ from those of military commanders, but they also criticized its operations directorate as understaffed, slow-moving and risk-averse. A recurring phrase in internal Pentagon documents is the requirement for a human intelligence branch "directly responsive to tasking from SecDef," or Rumsfeld.

The new unit's performance in the field and its latest commander, reserve Army Col. George Waldrop, are controversial among those involved in the closely held program. Pentagon officials acknowledged that Waldrop and many of those brought quickly into his service lack the experience and training typical of intelligence officers and special operators. In his civilian career as a federal manager, according to a Justice Department inspection

report, Waldrop was at the center of a 1996 probe into alleged deception of Congress concerning staffing problems at Miami International Airport.

Navy Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, expressed "utmost confidence in Col. Waldrop's capabilities" and said in an interview that Waldrop's unit has scored "a whole series of successes" that he could not reveal in public. He acknowledged the risks, however, of trying to expand human intelligence too fast: "It's not something you quickly constitute as a capability. It's going to take years to do."

Rumsfeld's ambitious plans rely principally on the Tampa-based U.S. Special Operations Command, or SOCOM, and on its clandestine component, the Joint Special Operations Command. Rumsfeld has designated SOCOM's leader, Army Gen. Bryan Brown, as the military commander in chief in the war on terrorism. He has also given Brown's subordinates new authority to spy foreign agents. Some Pentagon officials refer to the combined units as the "secret army of Northern Virginia."

## U.S. labors to build trust, leaders in Iraq

### Military advisers work directly with Iraqi forces to develop quality units

BY STEVE FAINARU

The Washington Post

MOSUL, Iraq — A dozen U.S. and Iraqi military officers dropped in on the Mosul police chief last week. After arriving at his headquarters in their armored Humvees, the men crowded into the chief's office to discuss security for the Jan. 30 parliamentary elections.

An Iraqi special forces officer, Lt. Col. Adil Abbas, quickly took over. "I have everything I need to protect you," he assured the police chief.

The police chief appeared doubtful. He looked pleadingly around the room at the Americans, the real power in Mosul. What would they do to protect him? A Marine stepped next to Abbas intervened. "Sir, Colonel Adil and I are brothers," said Maj. Frank Shelton. "He has a picture of my daughter. I have a picture of his son. Anything we can do to assist you, that is our mission together."

Abbas, 35, is commander of the 22nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, Iraqi Intervention Force. Shelton, 35, is his senior American adviser. In addition to keeping a photo of Abbas' 4-year-old son, Mustafa, sleeps five feet from Abbas, eats meals off the same plate and seldom leaves his side.

Their intense relationship is part of a changing U.S. strategy to find a way out of Iraq. After a string of battlefield failures by the nascent Iraqi security forces, the U.S. military has committed as many as 10,000 advisers to work directly with Iraqi units in the coming months. The goal is to develop quality leaders who can prevent the units from falling apart under attack and ultimately assume responsibility for Iraq's security.

In Iraq, U.S. commanders have developed a security plan for the upcoming elections in which Iraqi troops will have the mission's most dangerous assignment: protecting the polling sites that inevitably will be targets for attack. U.S. troops will provide perimeter security and respond to emergencies but will stay away from the polls to avoid any appearance they are trying to influence the elections, officers involved in the planning said.

Viewed up close, the relationship between Shelton and Abbas shows how complicated the strategy is: an American Marine teaching fundamental leadership skills in the middle of an escalating insurgency.

Shelton, an infantry, 5-foot-7 fireplug whose father, Roy, was an American military adviser in



**Marine Maj. Frank Shelton, far left, speaks with Iraqi troops. As a military adviser, he works and lives with Iraqi units. After a string of battlefield failures by the nascent Iraqi security forces, the U.S. military has committed as many as 10,000 advisers to work directly with Iraqi units in the coming months.**

STEVE FAINARU/The Washington Post

Vietnam, said he and his team of eight U.S. advisers would continue to ride with the Iraqis in vulnerable, unarmored trucks as election day approaches.

U.S. commanders said they were optimistic that the new advisers would help the Iraqi security forces overcome their disappointing battlefield performance. In the most notorious incident, last April, a group of frightened Iraqi soldiers refused to fight insurgents in Fallujah. That incident crystallized what many American soldiers continue to believe: that Iraqi troops are generally under-motivated and poorly trained.

Abbas, lanky and intense, said he served 19 years in the Iraqi military under ousted President Saddam Hussein. He fought as a combatant diver in the Iran-Iraq war and the Persian Gulf War. His career ended on the outskirts of Baghdad on April 4, 2003, just

as the city was about to fall to U.S. forces. Abbas said he gathered his battalion of 489 soldiers and told them they could go home. Then, Abbas said to himself.

Abbas said he sat around for the next year and a half, borrowing money from his brothers to support his family. Finally, he said, he received a call from a cousin who had been named lieutenant general in the new 6th Brigade. Abbas said his allegiance had not to the old Iraqi army and had been to Saddam, and he was thrilled at the opportunity to return to military life.

"If the new Iraqi army does not stand, Iraq will be finished. The fate of Iraq and the fate of the army are one and the same."

Shelton, an infantry major with Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force based on Okinawa, holds a degree in political science

from Vanderbilt University. He was a platoon commander during the American mission in Somalia in 1992.

After attending Ranger school and training as a naval paratrooper and a Marine Combatant Diver, he had learned the multiple skills that the military was seeking for its Advisory Support Teams, or ASTs.

Shelton said he prepared for Iraq by rereading an English translation of the Quran to better understand Islamic culture.

Out on the streets of Iraq, Shelton carries an M-4 assault rifle, a 9 mm Beretta, four fragmentation grenades and a Boker hunting knife that was a gift from his former father-in-law.

He carries hundreds of rounds of ammunition but said, "Mission success is me not firing a round."

"You can accuse me of going native by growing facial hair and doing everything else," Shelton said. "But I'm privileged to be here at this time in history."

# Reverse voter turnout to Iraq's future

## A one-sided Shiite vote could send the country spiraling into civil war

BY HAMZA HENDAW

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Millions of ballots have been printed, thousands of voting booths assembled and 300,000 Iraqi and U.S. troops put at the ready. Everything is in place for Iraq's national elections. All that's needed now are voters.

Participation is the crucial question in Sunday's parliamentary election, which the insurgents, mostly Sunni Arabs, have vowed to disrupt. Substantial Sunni turnout in the face of intimidation and murder could spell the beginning of the end of the rebellion and hasten the day when the United States can bring home its 150,000 troops.

But if the vast majority of Sunnis shun the polls — either out of fear or lack of confidence in the process — it would undercut the new government's legitimacy, widen the fault line between Sunnis and the majority Shiites and possibly doom the American military to years of struggle against a determined foe.

To encourage a big turnout, U.S. and Iraqi authorities will impose sweeping security measures — sealing the country's borders, imposing travel restrictions and putting swarms of armed guards at polling stations. American troops have been rounding up hundreds of suspected rebels to head off election-day attacks.

Iraq's 14 million eligible voters will cast ballots at 5,220 polling centers, choosing a 275-member National Assembly and provincial legislatures. The National Assembly will then appoint a new government. Voters in the Kurdish-ruled area of northern Iraq will also elect a new regional parliament.

An additional 1.2 million Iraqi exiles can vote in 14 countries, including the United States, over a three-day period starting Friday.

Final results will not be known for a week or more, but preliminary figures should be available hours after polls close.

Iraqis will vote for lists of candidates, rather than individuals, and the alliance endorsed by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite cleric, is expected to fare best.

Other major contender lists are led by interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite; and interim President Ghazi al-Yawer, a



Supporters cut holes in an elections banner Sunday urging Iraqis to vote for Ayad Allawi, Iraqi interim prime minister. Insurgent attacks have prevented candidates from making campaign appearances, so most are relying on banners, posters and word of mouth to spread the news of their candidacies. A few well-financed candidates have purchased TV and newspaper ads.

Sunni Arab. A Kurdish list is expected to draw most votes among the Kurds, about 15 percent of the population.

In all, some 19,000 candidates are competing. At least 30 percent of the candidates on each list are women, by law.

Shiites, an estimated 60 percent of the 26 million population, are expected to turn out in huge numbers, encouraged by clergymen who sense empowerment after generations of domination by the Sunni Arabs. The Sunnis, by the same token, dread the loss of supremacy, and many insurgent attacks have targeted Shiites, including a car bombing outside a Shiite mosque Friday that killed at least 14 people.

A turnout that fails to attract Sunni Arab participation could produce a government unacceptable to Sunnis. This, warns Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib, could send Iraq into a downward spiral into civil war.

Mindful of the dangers, Shiite leaders promise to guarantee a role for Sunnis in the new

government.

"No matter what the results are, we will work and insist on achieving the principle of participation of all parts of the Iraqi people," said Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, who heads the al-Sistani-endorsed ticket.

But those assurances may not be enough for the millions of Sunni Arabs who live in areas identified by the U.S. military as the most dangerous — Baghdad and the provinces of Anbar, Salaheddin and Nineveh. Those areas, which also have Shiite communities, make up more than 40 percent of the nation's population.

Voters in areas deemed too dangerous will be allowed to cast ballots outside their home districts.

Insurgents have cast a menacing pall, blasting polling stations, killing electoral workers and candidates, and torching warehouses holding election materials.

The chief U.N. electoral official here, Carlos Valencia, describes intimidation of election workers as "high and very serious" but expresses confidence the voting will go ahead.

Even without the specter of violence, organizing such an election in a nation without a solid democratic foundation was a huge undertaking.

SEE NOTE ON PAGE 7

## The Iraqi election process

Procedures for voting in the Iraqi election.

■ **Voting centers:** Iraqis will report to 5,220 designated voting centers around the country. The centers will be ringed by Iraqi police and Iraqi National Guard troops, with American and other multinational soldiers in reserve. Voting is set for 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., although the hours can be extended if voters are still in line at closing time.

■ **What's on the ballot:** Each voter will be given two paper ballots — one for the 275-member National Assembly and the other for provincial legislatures. Voters in the Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Iraq will receive a third ballot for the self-governing region's parliament.

■ **How they will vote:** Each voter will be led to a cardboard booth to mark the ballots. Voters will choose parties rather than individuals, with the number of candidates seated from each party determined by the party's percentage of votes nationwide. Once the ballots have been marked, the voter hands them to an election worker who drops them into a ballot box. The voter then proceeds to the final station, where an election worker marks his or her hand with indelible ink to prevent repeat voting.

■ **How votes will be counted:** Once voting has ended, election workers will count the ballots at each polling center. Poll workers will report the results to the Iraqi Electoral Commission by telephone and Internet. A tally room has been set up in the commission's heavily fortified Baghdad headquarters. Initial results are expected to be announced within hours after voting ends, but the final tally will not be known for a week to 10 days.

— The Associated Press

*"No matter what the results are, we will work and insist on achieving the principle of participation of all parts of the Iraqi people."*

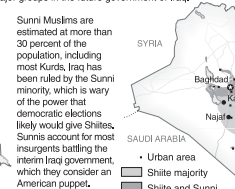
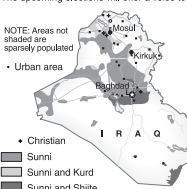
Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim

Candidate on al-Sistani-endorsed ticket

## Ethnic and religious differences expected to divide the vote in Iraq



Modern Iraq was carved out of the Ottoman Empire by its British administrators of the 1920s, gaining independence as a kingdom in 1932. The ethnically and religiously diverse country endured a succession of military coups culminating in the rise to power of Saddam Hussein. The upcoming elections will offer a vote to major groups in the future government of Iraq.



Shiite Muslims represent about 60 percent of Iraq's people, and some of the sect's most important shrines are in the country. Largely opposed under Saddam, Shiite Muslims are expected to gain power in the June 30 elections. Their turnout is expected to be large. Shiite Islam also is the state religion of Iraq, having been a longtime foe of Saddam.

## Vote: Many will follow imams' suggestions

VOTE, FROM PAGE 6

A new election law had to be put in place, voter rolls updated, poll workers trained and millions of ballots printed, mostly in Canada and Australia — all against the backdrop of violence.

With so many candidates, most Iraqis know the names of only a few on each list. Many names have been kept secret for security reasons. And because of the violence, candidates haven't been able to campaign in person.

That leaves most campaigns relying on word of mouth, election posters plastered on walls, and TV and newspaper ads by the better-financed candidates like Alawi.

"Generally, I cannot go out and meet people or knock on doors to get out the vote like they do in the West," said Salama Khafaji, a female Shiite candidate who escaped an assassination attempt this month.

As a result, many Iraqis will likely vote according to what their imams or tribal leaders recommend.

The new assembly will elect a three-member presidential council, which will choose a prime minister subject to legislative approval.

The assembly also will draft a constitution.

## Names to watch in Sunday's election

Key political players in Iraq's election:

■ **Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani:** Although not running for election, Iraq's top Shiite cleric has issued an edict describing voting as a "religious duty." Al-Sistani, 75, has great influence in the majority Shiite community and has opposed anti-American violence. With the loyalty of most Shiite clerics and many tribal leaders, the Iranian-born grand ayatollah has used his popularity to sway the political process toward assuring Shiite domination of the future government.

■ **Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim:** Shiite cleric and leader of the key Shiite political organization, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. Opposed Saddam Hussein from exile in Iran before returning after the U.S.-led invasion and serving on the Iraq Governing Council. He and al-Sistani lead the United Iraqi Alliance, which is widely expected to dominate the election.

■ **Ayad Allawi:** Interim prime minister considered a moderate with a reputation for toughness in dealing with the multiple insurgencies gripping Iraq. The 60-year-old Shiite physician, who leads a group of candidates called The Iraqi List, spent three decades in exile and has a long history of working with the U.S. government. A former member of Saddam's Baath Party, his wealthy family was close to the royal family that ruled before Saddam took power.

■ **Ibrahim al-Jaafari:** Interim vice president and the main spokesman for the Islamic Dawa Party, which waged a bloody campaign against Saddam's regime in the late 1970s. Saddam crushed the campaign in 1982 and Dawa based itself in Iran. The party is a member of the United Iraqi Alliance.

ance. Al-Jaafari, a Shiite who was born in 1947, is a general practitioner.

■ **Ghazi al-Yawer:** Interim president, a largely ceremonial post. He is a prominent Sunni member of the Shammar tribe, which includes Shiite clans and is one of the largest tribes in the Persian Gulf region. A civil engineer born in Mosul, al-Yawer, 45, studied in Saudi Arabia and at Georgetown University in the United States. He heads the Iraqis Party.

■ **Adnan Pachachi:** Foreign minister in the government toppled by Saddam's Baath Party in a 1968 coup and a member of the post-U.S. invasion Iraqi National Council. Pachachi, 81, leads a group of candidates called the Assembly of Independent Democrats. A prominent secular Sunni, he is seen as a possible compromise figure to lead a future government.

■ **Naseer Kamel al-Chaderchi:** Sunni lawyer, businessman and landowner who leads the National Democratic Party. A member of the former Iraqi Governing Council, he is the son of Kamel al-Chaderchi, who played a leading role in Iraq's democratic development until 1968, when the Baath Party seized power.

■ **Jalal Talabani:** Sunni Kurd and leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of two key northern Kurdish parties. Born in 1934, he joined the Kurdistan Democratic Party as a teenager and then founded the PUK in 1957. He and KDP leader Massoud Barzani are running for office in a joint group of candidates, the Kurdish Alliance List.

■ **Massoud Barzani:** Sunni Kurd and leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, founded in 1946 by his father. Barzani, 56, helped

negotiate a short-lived autonomy agreement with Iraq's government in 1970 that ended nine years of fighting. He took over the party leadership when his father died in 1979 and has survived two assassination attempts.

■ **Ahmad Chalabi:** Secular Shiite banker and one-time Pentagon confidante who led the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella for groups that included Iraqi exiles, Kurds and Shiites. Chalabi, 58, who left Iraq as a teen, fell out of favor with Washington last year after claims he passed intelligence information to Iran. He is running with the United Iraqi Alliance.

■ **Hussain al-Shahrastani:** One of six figures chosen by al-Sistani to draw up the United Iraqi Alliance's candidate list. Al-Shahrastani is a nuclear scientist whose refusal to work in Saddam's nuclear program led to his 1979 jailing. He escaped in 1991. Educated and married in Canada, he worked for human rights organizations in Iran and London.

■ **Adil Abdul-Mahdi:** Iraq's current minister of finance and a leading politician in the powerful Shiite Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. Born in 1942, he is the French-educated son of a respected Shiite cleric who was a Cabinet minister in Iraq's monarchy. Running with United Iraqi Alliance.

■ **Hamid Majid Moussa:** Economist, leader of the Iraqi Communist Party since 1993 and a member of the former Iraqi Governing Council. A Shiite, Moussa left Iraq in 1978 and returned in 1983 to continue his political activities against Saddam's regime. Draws support from urban Shiites and Kurds.

— The Associated Press

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# 'We can use art to educate'

## Kuwait-deployed reservist traded badge and gun for pen and paint

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — A lot of men in the Louisiana penitentiary might just wish that Lt. Col. Michael Verrett had stuck to drawing Mickey Mouse.

Coming out of high school in the South, Verrett wanted two things out of life: to work as an artist for the Walt Disney Corp., and to play college baseball at Louisiana State University.

"But Disney wasn't hiring, and LSU wasn't giving baseball scholarships," said Verrett, 46. "So I got a job with the police department."

Verrett's career has taken a few turns and turns over the years. He went on to become one of Baton Rouge's best-known homicide detectives, then added the duties of police sketch artist. Five years ago, he began writing and illustrating children's books.

Last summer, his Army Reserve unit got called up for a Middle East assignment. He's now the container manager for the Combined Forces Land Component Command at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Verrett's interest in art started almost before he was out of the crib. "My child became fascinated with all things Disney."

"When I was four years old, I started drawing with crayons on the walls," he said. "Mom liked the art work, but not the location."

But growing up in public hous-

ing in one of the poorest states in the country narrowed his post-high school options. He enlisted in the National Guard at age 17, and two years later became an officer. He joined the Baton Rouge police force at age 20 — transferring the same year to the Army Reserve — and moved to the homicide team four years later.

On the murder beat, he teamed up with Keith Bates to form a celebrated crime-solving partnership that seemed made for a television cop show.

"They solved crimes when others were stupefied," said Donna Britt, a friend of Verrett's who is longtime reporter and anchorwoman at WAFB-TV, the CBS affiliate in Baton Rouge. "Verrett and Bates were in our headlines, sometimes, every night."

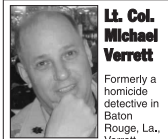
Verrett is white and Bates black, but the two men found they were more alike than different. Both shared a strong Christian faith.

"He was from the 'hood, and I was from the projects, so we meshed well," Verrett said.

Through his police career, though, Verrett never forgot his love of art and writing. He always tried to put a bit of extra flair into typically dry police reports. He became the Baton Rouge police department's sketch artist and, in 1998, graduated from the FBI's sketch artist school.

Away from work, he painted murals at his sons' school and taught night classes in drawing and creative writing.

## Stripes Spotlight



**Lt. Col. Michael Verrett**

Formerly a homicide detective in Baton Rouge, La., Verrett

is now serving as container manager for the Kuwait-based Combined Land Forces Component Command. He also is an author and illustrator of children's books and a cartoonist for the CFLCC command publication Desert Voices.

**Age:** 46

**Family:** Wife, Melissa; three sons: Chris, 20; Brian, 16; Sean, 14

**Unit:** 143rd Transportation Command, Orlando, Fla.

**Home:** Morgan City, La.

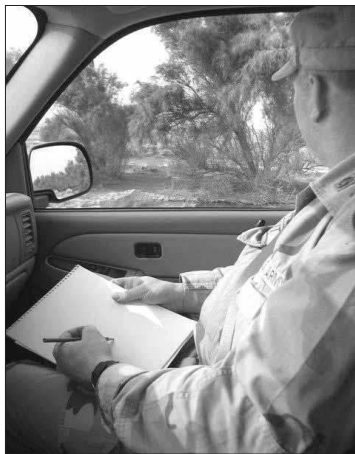
Stars and Stripes

A local book publisher, Keepsafe, in Baker, La., has published three of his books, the profits from which Verrett has donated to his church and local children's charities. Verrett retired from the police force after hitting the 25-year mark last spring — with no regrets, he said, over leaving behind the long, unpredictable hours and frequent clashes with supervisors who he didn't always appreciate his blunt honesty.

His chief motivation, though, was to spend more time with his wife, Melissa, and his sons, Chris, Brian and Sean, while the boys were still in their teens.

"I wanted them to play ball instead of working the streets," Verrett said.

He also hoped to spend more time on his books and land a contract with a big-time book publisher. Those wishes moved to the back burner last summer, though, when his reserve unit, the 143rd Transportation Command from Orlando, Fla., got called up for a year's duty in Kuwait.



Photos provided

**Lt. Col. Michael Verrett's job as container manager for the Combined Forces Land Component Command frequently takes him from his desk at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, to other countries where troops live such as Qatar, Djibouti and Afghanistan. He always brings along a pad and pens to capture what he sees in cartoon form.**

Attached to CFLCC for the past five months, Verrett has overseen an inventory of all the Army's cargo containers in the Central Command region, from Africa to Afghanistan. Although it is less glamorous, he finds it no less challenging than police work. He said his team has tracked down 1,400 leased cargo containers that are costing the Army between \$20 and \$40 per day. Already he has returned 500 of them, saving millions of dollars.

But he hasn't forgotten his art. Verrett carries pens and pads with him everywhere to capture his restless thoughts. He draws cartoons at dinner and lies on his bunk at night, typing kids' stories into his laptop computer.

Staff Sgt. David Smith, 38, of Melbourne, Fla., works and frequently travels with Verrett on container-counting expeditions. He said Verrett has written a se-

ries of stories for Smith's 3-year-old daughter about the adventures of Sgt. Sam the Camel and the Ali Baba Lizards. He even draws while they're driving in the car.

"He's managed to capture so many scenes," Smith said. "When things strike him, he'll have (the cartoon) done in like five minutes."

When Verrett returns to Louisiana this summer, he says he'll try to get some of his new material published, including more "White Alligator" installments and several Christmas stories. Melissa is his editor, and his three sons will join him as co-illustrators.

"I tell people, we can use art to educate, inspire and entertain," Verrett said. "But if you hide it in your stock drawer, it doesn't help anyone."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: [liewer@mail.strips.net](mailto:liewer@mail.strips.net)

Verrett draws from his experience in the Middle East to capture a sense of what life is like for soldiers.

Courtesy of Michael



# Shigeya Kihara, last U.S. Army language pioneer, dies

BY DENNIS MCLELLAN

Los Angeles Times

Shigeya Kihara, the last surviving original instructor of the first U.S. Army language school, which was founded just prior to World War II to teach Japanese to American soldiers, has died. He was 90.

Kihara, who had advanced Parkinson's disease and suffered a stroke in 2002, died of natural causes at his son's home Jan. 16 in Castro Valley, Calif., said his son, Ron Kihara.

Originally known as the Fourth Army Intelligence School and based at the Presidio in San Francisco, the language training program later evolved into the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey.

A Nisei, or second-generation Japanese

American, Kihara was one of the first four civilian instructors at the original school, which opened in 1941 in a converted airplane hangar.

Classed began on Nov. 1, with 60 students, 58 of them second-generation Japanese Americans. Some five weeks later, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor plunging the United States into World War II.

Born in Fairfield, Calif., Kihara had earned a bachelor's degree in 1934, and came from the University of California, Berkeley in 1937 and, after receiving a master's in international relations in 1939, he moved to Japan to study and travel.

Although he had promised his father he would study in Japan for two years, Kihara said in a 2001 interview with the Monterey County Herald, "war fever" made studying difficult. Japan had invaded China in 1937

and when it invaded French Indochina in July 1941, Kihara feared he would be trapped in Japan if war broke out with the United States.

His father, however, wasn't happy when Kihara wrote a letter saying he was returning home, he recalled. "My father said if I came back from Japan, I was no longer his son."

Kihara nevertheless sold his portable typewriter, his shoes and overcoat to buy a steerage ticket on a U.S.-bound steamer. When he arrived in San Francisco, he was greeted at the dock by his brother, who told him, "Papa says you can come home."

After Kihara returned home, a UC Berkeley professor suggested that he take a job teaching Japanese to soldiers.

Kihara reported to the Fourth Army Intelligence officer at the Presidio of San

Francisco. A week later, Kihara received an appointment to the U.S. Civil Service as a civilian Army employee and instructor in Japanese.

The government's decision to launch the language school, Kihara said in a 1991 interview with the Herald's weekend magazine, "was an unprecedented, historical decision." Heretofore, Japanese-Americans were considered second-class citizens, linked to Japan, and not to be trusted," he said. "Here they were asked to do something of vital service to the United States, very critical not only for the U.S. Army but for Japanese Americans."

Ron Kihara said Friday that his father "was always a loyal American."

"I remember a friend of mine once listening to my dad talking. He said, 'Shig, you make me feel like I need to stand up and salute.' Dad was that way," Kihara said.



## IN THE WORLD

## Yushchenko sworn in as Ukraine's president

By NATASHA LISOVA

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Viktor Yushchenko was sworn in as president of Ukraine on Sunday and called his inauguration "a victory of freedom over tyranny," capturing a dramatic rise to power on the back of two months of massive street protests sparked by fraud-plagued elections.

The pro-Western reformer Yushchenko declared that the former Soviet republic was "now in the center of Europe" and praised the crowds of supporters who kept up demonstrations for weeks in Kiev's central square demanding a fair vote.

"The heart of Ukraine was an Independence Square," Yushchenko told tens of thousands of people in the square. "Good people from all over the world, from away countries, were looking at Independence Square, at us."

"This is a victory of freedom over tyranny. The victory of law

over lawlessness," he said, standing in front of an orange banner erected on the Independence Monument's rotunda, a reference to the campaign color that led the winter's demonstrations to be called the "Orange Revolution."

Yushchenko took the oath of office in the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, placing his hand on a copy of the constitution and an antique Bible, his face still swollen and scarred with lesions from his dioxin poisoning in September — widely believed to have been a deliberate attempt to take him out of election contention.

Some deputies repeatedly shouted "Yu-shechen-ko, Yu-shechen-ko," an echo of the chanting that filled Kiev during the showdown with his Kremlin-backed rival. Others stood stonily, not applauding, a reflection of the deep political tensions that Yushchenko will face as Ukraine's third post-Soviet leader.

Yushchenko was declared the



Viktor Yushchenko kisses the constitution after taking the oath of office Sunday during his inauguration ceremony in the Verkhovna Rada parliament in Kiev, Ukraine.

loser of a Nov. 21 run-off election against Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich that international observers said was badly marred by vote fraud. Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators poured into Kiev's streets to protest the

results and demonstrations went on for weeks.

The Supreme Court annulled the election and Yushchenko won a Dec. 26 court-ordered rerun, beating Yanukovich by 8 percentage points. Yanukovich raised a

series of legal challenges to the revote, but they were rejected by the high court.

Yushchenko promised to turn the country around after years of corruption, poverty and oppression, and pledged to safeguard freedom of speech.

More than 40 countries were represented at the inauguration. The dignitaries included Secretary of State Colin Powell and NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

President Bush called Yushchenko on Saturday to congratulate him on his election and on "democracy's victory" in Ukraine. White House spokesman Brian Resnesen said in Washington.

"The two leaders also discussed their support for the people of Iraq and for democracy in that country," Resnesen said.

Ukraine has 1,650 troops in Iraq, the fourth-largest contingent in the U.S.-led military operation. Outgoing President Leonid Kuchma has ordered them withdrawn by the end of June and Yushchenko has said he will stand by that.

## Indonesia, Aceh rebels agree to discuss cease-fire

Tsunami disaster had brought a temporary truce between sides

By SLOBODAN LEKIC

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Diplomatic efforts gained steam in easing separatist conflicts Sunday in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, two countries battered by last month's tsunami that has focused international attention on their decades-long insurgencies.

Finland's Crisis Management Initiative, headed by former President Martti Ahtisaari, confirmed that Indonesian government officials and Aceh rebel leaders would meet this week in Helsinki, but declined to provide more details "due to the delicate nature" of the negotiations. They will discuss a formal cease-fire in tsunami-ravaged Aceh province, where separatists have been fighting for an independent homeland for nearly 30 years.

Despite an informal truce announced by both sides since the disaster, there have been isolated

reports of fighting, raising concerns about the security of relief operations in Aceh. On Sunday, the Indonesian military said it had killed 20 alleged rebels in the last four weeks.

Aceh had been previously closed to foreigners, but the influx of relief workers and journalists into the province since the disaster has for the first time drawn international attention to the conflict.

Another official involved in bringing the two sides together said the talks will probably be held Thursday, and could lay a framework for restarting the peace process that foundered 20 months ago. The source spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of disrupting the talks.

Jakarta had announced last week that it planned to hold talks by the end of the month, but the government's spokesman was not available for comment Sunday.

"There is a hope that the scale of the disaster and the movement for rebuilding Aceh will help lead to social and political reconciliation between Indonesia [and the rebels]," said Dewi Anwar Fortuna, a prominent analyst and

## Admiral: Time right to cut back effort

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI

The Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN — The admiral in charge of the massive U.S. relief operation in Indonesia's tsunami-devastated areas on Sunday dismissed fears the United States is leaving too soon and might create a vacuum in the aid effort.

The USS Abraham Lincoln's five-ship battle group arrived off Sumatra island within four days of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami, and about a dozen SH-60 Seahawk helicopters have been rushing food, water and medicine to towns and villages along the battered coast every day since.

former presidential adviser. Indonesia was the worst hit of 11 nations affected by the disaster.

In Sri Lanka, Norway's foreign minister met with Sri Lanka's prime minister Sunday, a day

after holding talks with the top guerrilla leader, to help resolve a dispute over aid distribution.

The disaster killed 31,000 people and displaced another 1 million in the island nation.

But many aid workers in Aceh province worry that last week's announcement by the U.S. military that it would immediately start scaling back and handing over operations to other nations, the United Nations and aid groups was premature.

"The bottom line is: I don't share that same concern," Rear Adm. William Crowder told The Associated Press. "We're reaching a point where there's going to be a transition to sustain relief and not an acute emergency gotta-have-it-now relief that we saw in the first couple of weeks."

"The advantage we had early on was our mobility, to be able to deploy ourselves here for about four days. And now, other organizations are getting their assets here," he said.

Crowder said the U.S. departure would be gradual, and that 25 to 30 helicopters from other nations and organizations would start flying for the United Nations and associated agencies in weeks.

"When the agencies, the U.N. and the others and the Indonesian government have the equipment they need to carry this on, we would then depart, because we no longer are needed to do what's left to do," Crowder said. He said the urgency is gone and the problem now is to sustain the relief.

Crowder said that despite reports of isolated skirmishes between Indonesian soldiers and separatist rebels in Aceh, "U.S. forces have not seen that. Our mission has not been affected."

The Tamil Tigers have repeatedly accused the government of obstructing aid deliveries to rebel-controlled areas in Sri Lanka's north and east — allegations that the government denies.



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# Iran: Strike by U.S. would be big 'strategic blunder'

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Sunday a U.S. military strike against it would be a strategic blunder but brushed aside tough talk from Washington as psychological warfare rather than a real threat.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said top U.S. administration officials didn't find any friends around the world when they issued threats suggesting the United States may be considering military action against Iran.

President Bush said Jan. 17 his administration won't rule out the possibility of using military force against Iran over its controversial nuclear program and Vice President Dick Cheney said Thursday that Iran "is right at the top of the list" of world trouble spots.

Secretary of State-designate Condoleezza Rice made clear that American differences with Iran go well beyond its nuclear program.

"It's really hard to find common ground with a government that thinks Islam should be extinguished," she told senators.

"We also intend to have trials a psychological war," Asefi told reporters Sunday. "We think the possibi-

ty (of a U.S. attack) is very low unless someone wants to commit a very big strategic blunder."

President Mohammad Khatami said Thursday Iran had plans to defend itself should the United States make any aggressive moves but added that the possibility of an attack "is very low" because Washington is preoccupied with Iraq.

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Seymour Hersh reported in The New Yorker magazine Jan. 17 that the Bush administration had been "conducting secret reconnaissance missions inside Iran at least since last summer" for the purpose of gathering intelligence and targeting information. Defense Department officials said the article was filled with mistakes but did not deny its basic point.

The European Union has taken a softer line toward Iran since Britain, France and Germany secured a commitment in December that Tehran would freeze its uranium enrichment program and entered talks on a permanent end to nuclear activities with bomb-making potential. They resumed trade talks with Iran this month.

Asefi refused to comment on reports that Iran has discovered spying devices from unidentified flying objects shot down by the Iranian military but denied U.S. commandos had penetrated Iran.

## Germany arrests 2 al-Qaida suspects

BY MATT SURMAN

The Associated Press

BERLIN — German police on Sunday arrested two suspected al-Qaida members believed to be planning a suicide attack in Iraq, federal prosecutors said. One of the men also allegedly tried to obtain uranium.

Police arrested Ibrahim Mohamed K., a 29-year-old Iraqi living in Mainz, on suspicion of recruiting suicide attackers in Germany and providing logistical help to the terrorist organization. He also is believed to have tried to obtain uranium in Luxembourg.

The other suspect, 31-year-old Palestinian Yasser Abu S., planned to carry out a suicide attack on a federal prosecutor in Kay Nehm told reporters in the western German city of Karlsruhe.

The Iraqi suspect trained multiple times in camps in Afghanistan before the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in the United States and then spent a year in Afghanistan

fighting American forces after the attacks, prosecutors said.

During this time he had contact with high-ranking al-Qaida leaders, they said.

This convinced him not to seek the original aspiration of martyrdom as a suicide attacker, but rather to recruit suicide attackers in Europe," prosecutors said in a statement.

He recruited the Palestinian suspect in September for a suicide attack in Iraq, and purchased more than \$1 million in life insurance for him, with the aim of faking the man's death in a car accident in Egypt, prosecutors said. The majority of the insurance payoff was to fund al-Qaida activities, they said.

Prosecutors said they could provide no more details on the men's effort to get uranium, and declined to release the suspects' surnames according to usual German criminal procedures.

Authorities searched four homes in Mainz and Bonn as part of the raid, attorneys said.

Germany has cracked down on suspected terrorist and extremist activity since the 2001 terror attacks on the United States, where they were planned in part by a terrorist cell in Hamburg.

On Jan. 12, police took 22 suspects into custody during nationwide raids on a network of Muslim extremists that turned up militant Islamic propaganda and forged passports. In December, police arrested three suspected members of the Ansar al-Islam terror group who allegedly planned to attack Iraqi Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi during a visit to Berlin.

In October, authorities arrested Syrian-German businessman and suspected key al-Qaida financier Mamoun Darkazani on a European warrant. Spanish authorities accuse him of providing al-Qaida with logistical help, and the United States labeled his Hamburg-based trading company a front for terrorism.

## Missing American declared dead

VIENNA, Austria — A missing American snowboarder was declared dead Sunday, raising the death toll to at least four in weekend avalanches that claimed the lives of daredevils seeking the dangerous thrill of skiing off-trail in virgin alpine snow.

Officials called off their search for the 31-year-old American a day after the snowboarder was swept away by a huge avalanche in the western province of Tyrol. It was unclear whether authorities had managed to recover the victim's body. The snow slide that killed the snowboarder also killed two Canadians ages 40 and 57 at the popular resort of St. Anton.

The width of the avalanche was estimated as roughly equal to the length of three football fields laid end to end.

## Traffic barred from Italian cities

MILAN, Italy — Cars were banned in Milan, Verona and some other 130 cities and towns across northern Italy on Sunday to lower air-pollution levels.

In Milan, car traffic was banned for the second Sunday in a row.

People walked or used public transportation, which was increased. Others opted for bicycles or roller skates despite the cold weather.

Milan city officials have said they will decide whether to enact the one-day bans on a week-by-week basis, depending on pollution levels.

The ban in Italy's financial capital started at 8 a.m. and was scheduled to last for 12 hours.

Other cities adopting similar measures included Mestre, Verona and Treviso in the northeastern part of the country.

From The Associated Press



Palestinian police pause at a checkpoint as a man waves a Palestinian flag in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahya on Sunday. PLO leader Mahmoud Abbas is in Gaza trying to negotiate a monthlong truce.

## Israel willing to put operations on hold

### Announcement paves way for talks

BY LARA SUKHITAN

The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The Israeli military is willing to suspend operations against Palestinian militants if they call off attacks, Israeli leaders said Sunday, signaling a shift in position that could help pave the way to ward a cease-fire after more than four years of fighting.

The announcement by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, came as Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said he was closing in on a truce deal with Islamic militants and called on Israel to respond positively to a truce.

Abbas has been in Gaza since last Tuesday pressuring militant groups to halt their attacks on Israeli targets. Abbas hopes a truce will lead to the resumption of peace talks.

"We can say that there has been significant progress in the talks. Our differences have diminished, and therefore we are bound to reach an agreement very soon," Abbas told Palestinian television.

He said it is "essential" that Israel end attacks against the militants and called on Israel to free many of the thousands of Palestinian prisoners it is holding.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said a claim by Israel's defense minister that a monthlong truce had been agreed was premature. He said Abbas, scheduled to return to his West Bank headquarters on Sunday, would remain in Gaza for an extra day to work on a deal.

Representatives of Hamas and Islamic Jihad also said no agreement had been reached, but that the talks were progressing.

Both groups said they would reserve the right to retaliate in the event of an Israeli offensive.

Signs of a cease-fire already were in place Sunday. With Israel's blessing, Abbas deployed about 3,000 security forces in northern Gaza over the weekend to prevent mortar and rocket attacks on Israeli targets. The area — where militants frequently launch rockets into southern Israel — has been quiet since the deployment.

Sharon held a special Cabinet meeting Sunday in Sderot — a southern border town that has been repeatedly targeted by Palestinian rocket fire.

He praised the recent calm as a "positive" development, but warned of a tough response if attacks resume. "I hope that perhaps the quiet will continue and if not, then the army and security forces will continue to do whatever is necessary in order to move the threat," Sharon said.

Meeting participants, speaking on the condition of anonymity, quoted Sharon as saying Israel would hold off a threatened offensive into Gaza as the Palestinian forces "preserve quiet."

Mofaz said a deal is emerging between Abbas and the militants to halt violence for "something like a month." During that time, negotiations will continue on a broader agreement on power sharing and a joint political platform.

# After 60 years, horror of Auschwitz remains

## Milestone anniversary of liberation could be last for many survivors

By VANESSA GERA

The Associated Press

OSWIECIM, Poland — At first the red-brick barracks look almost respectable, numbered like normal houses along tree-lined paths. But then the gas chamber reveals itself through the wintry fog, and the death walk where prisoners were stripped and shot, and the soil and ponds still full of teeth and crumbled bones from incinerated corpses.

The death factory where the Nazis murdered 1.5 million people went idle 60 years ago on Jan. 27, but Auschwitz, ground zero of human savagery, still has the power to stun its visitors into silence.

"For me, this is a grave, not a museum," said Shalom Gross, a 57-year-old Israeli who lost more than 80 relatives to the Holocaust on his mother's side alone.

He held three Hebrew holy books. "I have come here to pray," he said.

Auschwitz today is many things at once: an emblem of evil, a site of historical remembrance, a vast cemetery. With its neighbor Birkenau and the town of Oswiecim — the Polish name of Auschwitz — it is also a place where life goes on, where people go to work, shop for groceries and try to make a living in a depressed coal-mining region where unemployment runs to 19 percent.

Some of the barracks serve as offices for the scholars and admin-



Left: Rails into the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau are shown last week in Oswiecim, southern Poland. An estimated 600,000 people visit the camp each year to learn and to grieve.

Below: A photo taken just after the camp's liberation by the Soviet army in January 1945 shows a group of children wearing pajama-like uniforms standing behind barbed wire fencing at Auschwitz. Red Army soldiers liberated the death camp on Jan. 27, 1945.

AP photos

istrators at the memorial site, who walk past the gas chamber and barbed wire as they go to and from work. A room once occupied by an SS guard is early preserved, down to the photo of Adolf Hitler on the wall.

"It is strange to work here, where we don't have contact with beauty," said Franciszek Piper, the head of the museum's historical research department, whose

spare office is on the second floor of Block 23. "But if people in Poland wished to live far from the places where people were killed, persecuted, where the soil is soaked with the blood of those killed by the Nazis, then everyone would have to leave Poland."

The 60th anniversary carries special weight, because very few survivors are likely to be alive for the 70th. Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Jacques Chirac of France will attend Thursday's ceremony at Auschwitz, along with Vice President Dick Cheney and others. President Bush visited Auschwitz in 2003.

An estimated 600,000 people visit the camp each year to learn or to grieve or to reflect on the past. Most move about in quiet reverence, yet even here, there's occasional levity — smiling tourists posing under the infamous main gate with its cynical slogan "ARBEIT MACHT FREI" (work

makes you free), or a group of visitors laughing as they line up to see a documentary about mass murder.

Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, says he has often seen such behavior at Auschwitz.

"It's exactly the people who are smiling that you want there," he said. "While it's disconcerting to see, the experience will play back in their heads — two months or two years later — and have an effect."

More than 90 percent of the victims from 1940 until the Soviet Army liberated the camp on Jan. 27, 1945, were Jews, and the rest were Gypsies, Polish political opponents, Soviet POWs, Catholics



and homosexuals. They died in gas chambers, or from starvation, medical experiments, disease or forced labor.

Auschwitz is in fact not one camp, but two: Auschwitz I, built in an abandoned Polish military base, and Auschwitz II, or Birkenau, a much bigger complex that went up later about 2 miles away to expedite the Nazis' Final Solution.

It is Birkenau that shocks more profoundly, a flat, vast space still ringed by the silver birch trees (birken in German) that gave the place its name. Crematoria lie in rubble as a reminder of the Nazis' effort to hide their crimes as their defeat loomed. Still intact are the rail tracks on which prisoners in cramped cattle cars were hauled into the camp and selected for slave labor, experiments, or death.

This month, a German service workers' union brought young

and middle-aged adults to visit the camp and meet with a survivor.

After a day at the camp, they gathered to reflect on their experience.

"I cannot comprehend the cruelty, how our parents and grandparents could have gone along with this," Jochen Schuk said.

"Or even today how people can still cling to ideologies of hatred."

For Poland, invaded and occupied for five years by Germany, then ruled by communist dictatorship for more than 40 years, having Auschwitz on its soil is particularly painful. The Nazis treated the Poles as an inferior race, dotted their land with death camps and murdered about 3 million non-Jewish Poles. Yet it often is tainted with guilt by geography.

At this time of year, tourists move through the camp and the unheated exhibit spaces bundled in heavy coats. Any urge to complain is stifled by the photos of inmates in thin, pajama-like fatigues.

As dusk falls, museum officials quietly lock the entrance gates, but refrain from breaking the silence with announcements over loudspeakers. As the night deepens, the visitors drift off at the time of their choosing — or when the gloom and the cold become unbearable.

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## IN THE STATES

## Carson, king of late night, dies

BY JEFF WILSON

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Carson, the "Tonight Show" TV host who served America a smooth nightcap of celebrity banter, droll comedy and headland charm for 30 years, has died. He was 79.

"Mr. Carson passed away peacefully early Sunday morning," his nephew, Jeff Sotzing, told The Associated Press. "He was surrounded by his family, whose loss will be immeasurable. There will be no memorial service."

Sotzing would not give further details, including the time of death or the location.

The boyish-looking Nebraska native with the disarming grin, who survived

every attempt to topple him from his late-night talk show throne, was a star who never distanced himself from his audience.

His wealth, the adoration of his guests — particularly the many young comics whose careers he launched — the wry tales of multiple divorces: Carson's air of modesty made it all serve to enhance his intimacy with viewers.

"Heeereee Carson's Johnny!" was the booming announcement from sidekick Ed McMahon that ushered Carson out to the stage. Then the formula: the topical monologue, the guests, the broadly played jokes such as "Carson the Magnificent."

But America never tired of him; Carson went out on top when he retired in

May 1992. In his final show, he told his audience: "And so it has come to this. I am one of the lucky people in the world."

"I found something that I always wanted to do and I have enjoyed every single minute of it."

His personal life could not match the perfection of his career. Carson was married four times, divorced three. In 1991, one of his three sons, 39-year-old Ricky, was killed in a car accident.

Nearly all of Carson's professional life was spent in television, from his postwar start at Nebraska stations in the 1940s.

Carson chose to let "Tonight" stand as his career zenith and his finale, withdrawing into a quiet retirement that suited his private nature.



Entertainer Bette Midler caresses talk show host Johnny Carson on May 21, 1992, during his next-to-last taping of "The Tonight Show" in Burbank, Calif. Carson died Sunday according to his nephew. He was 79.

## Blizzard conditions bog down Northeast, Midwest



Avид skier and Capitol Hill resident Laura Olsen glides past the Capitol as snow falls Saturday in Washington.

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Travel was slowed to a crawl at best across wide areas of the Northeast on Sunday as a huge snowstorm whipped up blizzard conditions with wind gusting to 60 mph, making highways treacherous, canceling hundreds of airline flights and slowing trains.

Massachusetts reported 2 feet of snow, with amounts of at least 20 inches in New York's Catskills and 18 inches in coastal Connecticut and Rhode Island. The National Weather Service said as much as 3 feet was possible in eastern Massachusetts. The weather system had earlier piled a foot of snow on parts of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and northern Ohio.

The stiff wind caused drifts up to 6 feet high in Massachusetts, along with poor visibility and scattered power outages. The weather service posted blizzard warnings into the afternoon in parts of New England, eastern New York state and northern New Jersey.

Rhode Island highway crews were "having a difficult time keeping up with the snow. They're starting to lose the battle," State Police Lt. Steve Lefebvre said Sunday.

Three deaths were linked to the weather in Ohio and two were blamed on the storm in Wisconsin.

Airports and their thousands of weekend travelers were hit hard by the blowing snow as hundreds of flights had to be canceled.

Boston's Logan International closed Sunday morning because of whiteout conditions, and snowplow crews were called back indoors at 3 a.m. Massport spokesman Phil Orlandella said there was no estimate when Logan would reopen.

Nearly 500 flights were canceled Sunday morning at the New York metropolitan area's New York, Kennedy and LaGuardia airports, and to about 700 that were grounded Saturday, Port Authority officials said.

A cargo plane slid off a runway

at Kennedy on Saturday, and two airplanes slid off taxiways Saturday in Pittsburgh. No injuries were reported.

Philadelphia's airport was shut down for several hours Saturday while crews worked to clear runways. Airport employees distributed pillows, blankets, disposable diapers and water to about 800 passengers who had to spend the night, said spokesman Mark Pesce said.

Nearly 600 flights were canceled Saturday at Chicago's O'Hare International.

Trains serving New York City's northern suburbs ran on reduced schedules because of snow and ice covering the electrified third rail, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said.

But for people who didn't have to be anywhere in a hurry, the weather provided a respite.

"It slows down the city and blankets a lot of the unpleasantness," Maya Tudor, 29, said in New York City. "You never see New York this calm. It's an event."

## Marches mark anniversary of '73 Roe v. Wade decision

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Activists on both sides of the abortion issue marched in demonstrations across the country to mark the 32nd anniversary of the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal.

The anniversary came amid speculation that retirements on the Supreme Court could alter its makeup and its long-standing defense of the Roe v. Wade decision during President Bush's second term. Chief Justice William Rehnquist is 80 and suffering from thyroid cancer.

In San Francisco, thousands of abortion opponents marched on the city's waterfront Saturday, chanting slogans like "Women deserve better," while abortion

rights supporters tried to drown them out with their own cries.

Condoms were tossed at the anti-abortion marchers, and people waved coat hangers in a reference to the days of back-alley abortions.

San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammann said he thought it was ironic that anti-abortion activists chose the liberal West Coast city as the site for their demonstration.

Some abortion opponents hoisted crosses over their heads or held pictures of Jesus. They said they were prepared for a confrontation.

Police said two people were arrested for assaulting officers, though no injuries were reported.

Elsewhere, abortion opponents marched on state capitols in Colorado, South Carolina and Texas.

## Former Marine held in abduction, death of Wal-Mart employee

The Associated Press

TYLER, Texas — Shoppers placed flower bouquets and teddy bears on a table inside a Wal-Mart store where a 19-year-old employee was abducted last week and later found dead.

Police, meanwhile, tried to piece together what happened between the time a surveillance camera captured Megan Leann Holden's abduction late Wednesday and the discovery of her body Friday in a ditch about 380 miles away.

Authorities said Holden was shot to death by a man who went on a multi-state crime spree before turning up Friday at an Arizona hospital with a gunshot wound.

The suspect, Johnny Lee Williams, 24 and a former Marine, was jailed in Arizona on \$1 million bond on an aggravated kidnapping charge from Texas, authorities said.

An autopsy was performed on Holden's body Saturday, but officials would not release details until next week.

At the Wal-Mart, shoppers passed Saturday to look at dozens of flower arrangements left in Holden's memory.

Wal-Mart declined to discuss security measures or how it monitors surveillance tapes, company spokeswoman Andrea Rader said Saturday.

The surveillance tape showed a man police iden-

tified as Williams standing outside the store for about two hours before Holden was abducted.

Tapes show Williams walking into the store a couple of times and then standing outside smoking, chatting at times with some customers, police said.

Williams followed two women at different times, but as other people approached, walked back to the entrance before following Holden to her pickup truck in a parking lot beside the store, police said.

"I think he was just looking for an opportunity to get a vehicle, and I don't know if a woman was part of that or not," Martin said.

Williams was discharged last year after four years as a Marine.

The suspect's aunt, Linda Williams, told the Tyler Morning Telegraph that her nephew seemed angry and not as talkative since he returned from Iraq.

"All you can do is sit here and wonder, you know, what happened," she told the newspaper. "I guess he just snapped. I don't know. He's been asking for help ever since he came home from the military."



Williams

# Bush's speech not to elude to aggression, father says

BY JIM VANDEHEI  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Bush's call for an end to tyranny worldwide should not be interpreted by foreign governments and the American people as a prelude to a more aggressive and warlike foreign policy in the second term, the president's father told reporters Saturday.

"People want to read a lot into it — that this means new aggression or newly asserted military forces," former President George H.W. Bush said. "That's not what that [inaugural] speech is about. It's about freedom."

After George W. Bush's second inaugural address, in which he promised to defend those who seek freedom everywhere, there has been confusion overseas and in the United States over whether he was signaling a shift in foreign policy. Some inter-

preted the speech as pressaging a more confrontational relationship with Russia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other nations that are allies in the war on terrorism but also have records of abusing human rights.

White House officials said in interviews Friday that Bush was not signaling a shift in policy, but rather seeking to clarify what administration officials call the "Bush doctrine of liberty" that the president feels should guide policy well after he leaves the White House.

White House officials said the president plans to detail the policies that will flow from the inaugural address in the upcoming State of the Union speech.

In his weekly radio address, Bush returned to the issues that he has signaled will dominate his second term: Iraq, the war on terrorism and restructuring Social Security. "We will strive to keep the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of terrorists and tyrants," he said.



Artists Christo, left, and Jeanne-Claude walk through foundations for their art project "The Gates, Central Park, New York, 1979-2005" as they enter the park on Jan. 7.

## Stem cell research lines reported tainted

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The human embryonic stem cells available for U.S. research are contaminated with nonhuman molecules from the culture medium used to grow the cells, researchers report.

The nonhuman cell-surface sialic acid can compromise the potential uses of the stem cells in humans, say scientists at the University of California, San Diego. Their study was published Sunday in the online edition of Nature Medicine.

Stem cells form very early in an embryo's development. They can develop into numerous types of cells to form organs and other parts of the body. Researchers hope to use these cells to repair damaged organs and cure diseases.

The work is controversial because the cells are taken from days-old embryos, which then die.

Opponents say this is unethical. President Bush has allowed federal government funding for

cell lines already in use, but not for newly developed ones.

Currently available stem cell lines have been grown in materials derived from animals. Such materials include connective tissue cells, called feeder layers.

That has raised concerns about potential contamination. Last summer, more than half the members of the Senate urged easing limits on new cell lines, noting that potential contamination could make available lines for humans uncertain.

"People have always been concerned about the possibility that something deleterious might be transferred from feeder cells to stem cells. This puts a face on that substance," Dr. James Battey, chairman of the stem cell task force at the National Institutes of Health, said about the new report.

This is a safety consideration, along with many others that will need to be addressed, Battey said.

The paper suggests that growing new stem cells that are free of low amounts of anti-Neu5Gc antibodies, the immune response was reduced, but not completely eliminated.

ing the acid to be diluted.

"We eat animal products and drink milk all the time and get this acid into our cells, and yet we are not always suffering from raging autoimmune disease," said Battey, who was not part of the research team.

The study reports that the cell lines currently approved for study under federal funding contain a sialic acid called N-glycolylneuraminic acid, or Neu5Gc. Human embryonic stem cells are contaminated by this acid "even when grown in special culture conditions with commercially available serum replacements, apparently because these are also derived from animal products," said the lead researcher, Dr. Ajit Varki.

Human cells are unable to make the acid, Varki said. In earlier research he had found that humans have antibodies directed against Neu5Gc.

The researchers said that when the team grew stem cells in human serum specifically selected for low amounts of anti-Neu5Gc antibodies, the immune response was reduced, but not completely eliminated.

## Husband-and-wife artists watch as 'The Gates' takes shape in N.Y.

BY ELIZABETH LESURE  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It is a vision artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude have shared since 1979: thousands of yellow-gold fabric panels suspended above miles of footpaths in Central Park, hung from specially designed "gates" to create meandering passageways with billowing, almost floating ceilings.

Now, more than two decades after they first began planning the controversial project, the husband-and-wife collaborators are finally watching "The Gates, Central Park, New York, 1979-2005" takes shape. The completed artwork, which will be on display for 16 days starting Feb. 12, will allow visitors to walk through 7,600 16-foot-tall, fabric-draped gates lining 23 miles of the park's pathways.

Held in place by 15,000 steel bases, the gates will be installed at 12-foot intervals, allowing alterations for low branches. The project will feature 5,200 tons of steel, 60 miles of vinyl tubing and more than 1 million square feet of fabric — all to be recycled when the piece is dismantled.

The artists' Web site says that people who walk through the gates will experience "a golden ceiling creating warm shadows."

"When seen from the buildings surrounding Central Park, The Gates will appear as a golden river appearing and disappearing through the bare branches of the trees and will highlight the shape of the footpaths," the Web site says.

The installation, Jeanne-Claude said, was "only a work of art, of joy and beauty" without any message or agenda.

"The Gates" is the first New York City piece for the artists, whose large-scale works of art in public spaces around the world have been both exalted and maligned.

The temporary, outdoor pieces on a monumental scale have no equivalent, according to Anne Strauss, who curated an exhibit about Christo and Jeanne-Claude at the Metropolitan Museum of Art last year.

"They really occupy a unique

position in contemporary art," Strauss said.

Both 69, the artists share a birthday: June 13, 1935. He was born Christo Javacheff in Gabrovo, Bulgaria; Jeanne-Claude Denat de Guillebon was born in French parents in Casablanca, Morocco. The couple met in Paris in 1958 and have a 44-year-old son.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude conceived "Draped Packages, Cologne Harbor, 1961" — a grouping of oil barrels covered with tarpaulins — their first collaboration. They are known for "wrapping" large structures — such as the German Reichstag (parliament building), in 1995.

They have been envisioning art for New York since 1964, when they set up a permanent home in Soho. The idea for "The Gates" was conceived in 1979, and the artists presented their proposal to city officials and community boards in 1980.

They were met with a lot of skepticism. According to the 2002 authorized biography "Christo and Jeanne-Claude," by Burt Cherwon, one detractor called the project "an example of cultural imperialism" and another called it "a mustache on the Mona Lisa."

The Parks Department formally rejected the proposal in 1981, and the artists continued with work elsewhere. The project's chances dramatically improved when Michael Bloomberg, who once sat on the board of the Central Park Conservancy and supported the project, was elected mayor in 2001.

The Central Park Conservancy, a private organization that manages the park, approved the project in December 2002, city officials gave it the green light.

The artists, who do not accept grants or donations, are bearing the entire cost themselves. Though the final budget won't be known until the artwork is completed, Jeanne-Claude and Christo hope the total will be under \$21 million. They're also donating \$3 million to the city's Parks Department and the Central Park Conservancy, which might place those who do not support the project. Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe said.



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## Animal cruelty

**NM** ROSWELL — A routine traffic stop led to the discovery of more than 60 sick and hungry cats in the back of a moving van driven by a 71-year-old woman.

Mary Jane Lyle pleaded not guilty to multiple counts of animal cruelty at a court appearance. She was being held in a Chaves County detention center.

If she is prosecuted, the charges carry possible prison time. An officer pulled over the van because one of its tailgates was out. While the officer was talking to Lyle, he heard noises coming from the back.

The cats were turned over to local animal control officers.

## Mom gives son crack

**MO** KANSAS CITY — A mother has been arrested on charges that she gave crack to her 4-year-old son to "calm him down."

Michelle R. Shelton, 32, of Kansas City, was arrested on a child endangerment charge.

Police said the boy did not suffer any obvious injuries from taking the highly addictive drug. He remains in state custody.

## Do as I say, not as I do

**MT** HELENA — The new direction of the state Transportation Department owned a concrete company when it was charged with nearly 1,000 violations of overweight truck laws enforced by the same agency he now heads, according to court records.

Jim Lynch's company paid \$63,550 in fines in 1991, but he said the state was making an example out of Pack & Co. Inc. at a time when it was common practice among concrete and paving companies to operate overloaded trucks.

Lynch, who took office Jan. 3 but still faces Senate confirmation, said the case does not affect his ability to be transportation chief.

Gov. Brian Schweitzer said he was aware of the charges filed against Lynch's business, and that he talked with Lynch about the matter before nominating him. The violations did not give him pause about choosing Lynch, he said.

No date for Lynch's confirmation hearing has been set.

## New city parking fees

**VT** RUTLAND — There's nothing like a \$63 parking fee to get people to look elsewhere for a space to leave their vehicles.

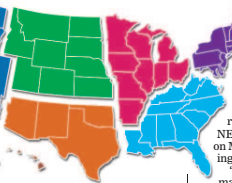
That's what city officials have discovered since beginning to charge for parking in a 600-space public garage that formerly had been free.

Some motorists have sought out city lots with cheaper fees, while others have tried to sneak in for free at privately-owned parking areas.

The four-story parking deck on West Street hasn't exactly gone unused: More than 400 people have long-term passes to the deck and 30 to 40 other motorists are paying on a daily basis to park there, state officials said.

## Giant squid wash ashore

**CA** NEWPORT BEACH — Hundreds of giant squid are washing up on Orange County



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

beaches, creating a scene more akin to "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" than "The O.C."

The bug-eyed sea creatures, believed to be Humboldt squid, normally reside in deep water and come to the surface only at night. Why approximately 500 of them began washing up on the sands of Laguna Beach and Newport Beach isn't clear.

Authorities said the squid — the biggest weighing 17 pounds — might have been pursuing bait fish and gotten too close to shore, or the tides might simply have carried them in.

Authorities plan to remove the squid and will give at least a couple to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History for research.

## Good deed rewarded

**NC** CONCORD — Edwin Workman and Todd Little will be treated like VIPs at NASCAR's Nextel All-Star Challenge.

The men, both sanitation workers, returned \$1,800 bills folded in a money clip in the pocket of a shirt tossed in the garbage Dec. 31. The cash was more than two months' combined take-home pay for the two men.

"We were raised right and we immediately knew what the right thing to do was and that was to return the money back to the proper



## Lifesavers at work

**Firefighters battle a blaze in Clinton Township, Pa. The fire burned out of control for more than two hours and five people were left homeless but no one was injured, according to Montgomery Borough police.**

owner as soon as possible," Little said.

Humpty Wheeler, president and general manager of Lowe's Motor Speedway, was so impressed with the men's honesty he decided to reward them. Wheeler arranged for VIP tickets to NEXTEL All-Star Challenge on May 21, with reserved parking and a pre-race pit tour.

"NASCAR is a working man's sport and you guys are honest, hard-working people," Wheeler told them.

## Homework lawsuit

**WI** MILWAUKEE — A student whose vacation plans were spoiled has sued to end summer homework in Wisconsin, claiming it creates an unfair workload and unnecessary stress.

Peer Larson, 17, had lined up a dream camp counselor job last June, but honors pre-calculus homework turned his summer into a headache.

"It didn't completely ruin my summer, but it did give me a lot of undue stress both at home and at school," the high junior said. "I just didn't have the energy or the time for it."

Larson and his father sued in Milwaukee County Circuit Court seeking the end of summer homework across the state. They argue that homework shouldn't be required after the required 180-day school year is over.

School administrators have told the family that honors courses require some summer work.

Whitnall School Superintendent Karen Petric said the district did its best to address the Larson's concerns.

## Desegregation case

**AZ** TUCSON — The Tucson Unified School District asked a federal judge to declare that the district is now integrated. That would close a decades-old desegregation case. The district has been working under a 1978 settlement, changing attendance boundaries and creating more magnet schools to comply with federal law.

## Surgery souvenir

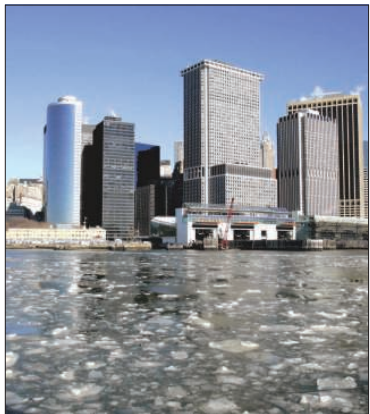
**PA** DANVILLE — A woman is suing a doctor who operated on her, accusing him of leaving a 4-inch metal instrument inside her uterus.

In her lawsuit, Lori Klinger, 35, said she experienced severe pain after Dr. Samuel Owusu performed a diagnostic laparoscopy on her in November 2002 to check for endometriosis, a condition where some of the uterus lining is found outside the uterus.

She said when she called Owusu later complaining of pain, he said it was normal and told her to take pain medication.

Two days later, she went to the bathroom and an instrument emerged from her vagina, the lawsuit said. Klinger said it was sharp on one end with a rubber bulb on the other.

This mistake happens at least once a year at hospitals that perform 8,000 to 18,000 surgeries a year, despite the regular use of checklists to account for instruments used during operations, said Ramona Conner of the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses.



## Big, Frozen Apple

Ice floats in New York Harbor with the skyline of lower Manhattan as a backdrop. The city was bracing for what was expected to be the area's biggest snowfall so far this winter.



## Getting their kicks

Members of the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Blizzard peewee soccer team work out during an evening practice beneath the setting sun in Harker Heights, Texas.



## Where's breakfast?

Donkeys stand in a snow-covered barnyard near Radford, Va., waiting for their morning helping of hay. Southwestern Virginia received its first significant snow of the season last week.





**Big air** Surfer Jesse Columbo of Santa Cruz, Calif., gets nice air while surfing in Monterey Bay.



**Flush likes luxury** Amanda Schnoor of Chowchilla, Calif., leads her Maine Angus crossbred named Flush into the stately Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver for display at the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo.



**Slick sledding** Christoph Reer and his 2-year-old son, Henri, enjoy the snow in Maymont Park in Richmond, Va.



**Don't worry — it's not real** Aaron Wild, 20, of Honeoye, N.Y., transformed a snow bank pile on the front yard of his girlfriend's house in Bloomfield, N.Y., into a giant turtle. He is seen here coloring the body of the turtle. Wild said the project took him about 20 hours over several days to complete.

## Peeping Tom crackdown

**VT** MONTPELIER — A Senate committee is working on a bill that would make it illegal to lurk outside and look into people's homes.

The bill would also make it illegal to photograph a person naked or partially clothed without permission in a place where the person should expect privacy, including homes, locker rooms and restrooms.

The committee debated whether that should exempt store security cameras or private detectives.

Some of the details of the bill drew concerns from the American Civil Liberties Union. Executive Director Allen Gilbert said he's worried about people being entrapped by the law since it can be a fine line between walking by someone's house versus peering in imprudently. Gilbert told the committee with some modifications he's close to being able to accept the bill.

## Social promotion debate

**FL** TAMPA — Bolstered by statistics showing students who are held back benefit from remedial education, the Florida Board of Education decided to ask lawmakers to end "social promotion" at all grade levels.

Board officials said it would be an important step in ensuring students are prepared when they are promoted to the next grade. However, details of how the state would handle the tens of thousands of children who wouldn't advance have not yet been worked out.

Right now, only third-graders in Florida have to show they read at the appropriate skill levels before they are promoted to the fourth grade. Those who are held back can attend summer reading camps or repeat the third grade.

The issue is a touchy one for parents, who often fight having their children held back.

## Sheep take over mowing

**AR** DUTCH MILLS — It's not as cold in northwest Arkansas as it is in Iceland, but a flock of Icelandic sheep doesn't seem to mind.

Dennis and Marilyn Miles say their Icelandic flock in southwest Washington County is the only one in the state.

"We had some friends here a year ago in October," said Marilyn Miles. "Dennis told them how much time he spent mowing. Our friends said we ought to get some sheep."

The Miles did some research and were intrigued by what they found out about the breed from Iceland, the island nation in the North Atlantic Ocean. The breed is 1,100 years old, and Dennis Miles describes them as "maintenance-free."

The sheep cost about \$700 to \$1,000 a head, she said.

## Mother Goose gear gone

**SC** ROCK HILL — Police want this tale of a stolen Mother Goose costume to end happily ever after.

Jane Hayes said someone stole her Mother Goose outfit after shattering a rear window in her minivan.

Hayes has worn the costume for the past 20 years, teaching at schools and during community

events.

"It's not like you could wear it out and about. You'd get spotted in a minute," said Hayes, who is an environmental educator for Rock Hill's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department.

The thief also made off with \$300 in gift certificates.

## Jackalope getting its due

**WY** CHEYENNE — The meadowlark, bison and horned toad are all official symbols of Wyoming. The jackalope, most elusive of the state's critters, may soon join the list.

The Wyoming House voted 45-12 to declare the part-antelope, part-jackrabbit as the state's official mythical creature. The legislation now goes to the state Senate.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Dave Edwards, hopes his measure as a boon to retail sales of stuffed jackalopes.

"It's highly possible it will certainly boost the tourism industry, which has a lot of gift shops and sells all kinds of different jackalopes," he said.

Taxidermist Doug Herrick is credited with creating the first jackalope in 1939 by screwing antelope horns to a mounted jackrabbit.

## Critical graffiti

**NY** NEW YORK — Say it, don't spray it.

Police arrested a man who allegedly found a messy way to complain about restaurants where he believed he had received poor service or been served bad food: graffiti.

Miguel Camacho, 29, was arrested after eluding police for six months, police said. He was suspected in more than 60 spray-painting incidents.

Camacho scrawled his trademark tag, "VAMP," on the outside of restaurants where he had negative experiences, said Lt. Thomas Conforti of the NYPD's 112th Precinct.

His targets included a pizzeria in Queens that Camacho said served bad pizza, and a Chinese take-out restaurant in Rego Park where he believed he had been overcharged, police said.

## New schools opening

**IL** CHICAGO — Ten new high schools and eight new elementary schools will open this fall, public school officials said.

Seven of the 18 will be charter schools. It's part of Mayor Richard M. Daley's plan to ease overcrowding and improve underperforming schools in the nation's third-largest school district.

## State: Move billboard

**WA** ARLINGTON — The state Transportation Department has told the Stillaguamish Tribe to move a casino billboard from Interstate 5.

Officials say the sign directing traffic to its Angel of the Winds Casino is too close to the exit, about a mile ahead.

Tribal officials declined to comment. The tribe has nominated the casino land, currently zoned for agricultural use, for federal trust status.

Stories and photos from wire services

## FACES



MARING PHOTOGRAPHY/AP

Newlyweds Melania Knauss and Donald Trump

# Trump marries for third time

BY JILL BARTON  
The Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — The bride's gown was worth more than most American homes. Her diamond-studded ring more than many yachts. But the groom's hair? Self-styled.

Donald Trump married Slovenian model Melania Knauss Saturday with all the glamour, glitz and gold that money and star power can buy.

Knauss walked down the aisle to "Ave Maria" and guests broke into applause when the real-estate mogul-turned reality TV star kissed the bride. The couple slipped into Trump's Mercedes-Benz Maybach parked near a side entrance after the 30-minute ceremony and drove past hundreds of cheering spectators with the help of a police escort. Oh, it was beautiful. It was all just lovely," singer Tony Bennett said.

Another guest, Kathy Hilton, the mother of hotel heiress Paris Hilton, said "it was very romantic. Everything was just beautiful. She looked like a princess. They exuded confidence."

And when The Donald kissed the bride? "It was very romantic, and it was a long one," Hilton said. The setting for the opulent reception was Trump's newly unveiled \$42 million Versailles-inspired ballroom at his Mar-a-Lago estate and club in Palm Beach, complete with 24-karat gold moldings, custom-made crystal chandeliers and marble floors covering 11,000 square feet.

About 400 people lined the street outside the church Saturday afternoon for a glimpse of a celebrity — or even the bride. Cheers erupted as the limousines began dropping off guests and a few yelled, "It's George!" when Trump business and legal adviser George Ross arrived.

The guest list offered a mix of European royalty, Hollywood celebrity and Palm Beach money, including "The Apprentice" producer Mark Burnett. Other guests included television personalities Barbara Walters, Star Jones, Matt Lauer, Kelly Ripa, Regis Philbin and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The nuptials marked the third trip down the aisle for Trump, 58, and came just days after the start of the third season of his hit show.

Guests were also to include New York Gov. George Pataki, singer Billy Joel, and possibly royalty. Prince Charles and Prince Albert of Monaco reportedly received invitations.

About 400 guests RSVP'd to attend, said Pat Saylor, Mar-a-Lago's catering and special events director. The wedding took place two miles away at a classic, garden-studded stone church, the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, next to the Breakers resort golf course.

But what's typically among the biggest surprises for the guests and groom — the wedding gown had already been seen.

Knauss, 34, posed for a traditional pre-wedding portrait in the gown and her \$1.5 million engagement ring and untraditionally shared it with the world on the cover of Vogue magazine. The Christian Dior original, which reportedly cost \$200,000, had 300 feet of satin and a 13-foot train that took \$50 hours to embroider.

It weighed 50 pounds — so much that the bride planned to slip into a lighter Vera Wang dress after the couple's first dance.

# Who doesn't love you, Ving?

## Critics, for starters: They don't see him as Kojak

BY LISA DE MORAES  
The Washington Post

LOS ANGELES — TV critics drove Ving Rhames to tears recently, after which they pounced on a maternal Bravo network suit who tried to protect Ben Affleck from suffering the same fate.

Rhames was here at Winter Television Press Tour 2005 to promote his remake of the cop series "Kojak" on USA Network, now owned by NBC Universal.

Some of the critics didn't seem real happy about the "Kojak" remake, in which Rhames takes the role of Lt. Theo Kojak made famous by Telly Savalas.

In particular they seemed to have trouble getting their heads around the idea of an African American in a role that had been very Greek American in the original.

Early in the session, Rhames said he never watched "Kojak" while growing up in Harlem in the '70s. "Who wanted to see a white man arresting some black people... I saw that every day." That was perhaps not the most diplomatic way to address critics' quibbles, even though Rhames added that sometimes while learning his lines he feels Savalas' spirit.

"It seems like you're sort of banking on people only vaguely remembering" the original series, another critic complained to the panel, which included co-stars Chazz Palminteri and Roselyn Sanchez, executive producer Tom Thayer and USA Network chief Bonnie Hammer.

"What," the critic asked, "besides borrowing a few iconic ideas, do you do with a show like this?"

Thayer replied that "it's a whole new ballgame" that is "all about Ving Rhames" but that using the Kojak name "gets you in the door." Ouch.

"So why wouldn't you just start from scratch and come up with another name..." the critic asked testily.

"Because, hello, it's a pre-sold title, silly, and in this age of a couple hundred channels, any time you come up with some way to pre-sell a new series, you take it, and shouldn't you know that if you cover this industry?" is, of course, what someone on the panel should have replied.

But, alas, Thayer gave the "this is new, entirely new" thing another shot, while Hammer went with "from the network's point of view... we had an amazing character, who is a real kick-ass but with a heart," and Rhames said something about many actors having played James Bond.

This only fueled the flame. "Kojak was a very ethnic character," one critic said. Another asked, "Does the two-hour pilot address the issue of how an African-American guy ended up with the name Theo Kojak?"

Rhames did a good job with that one: "My real first name, and I know I look like a nice Jewish guy, is Irving."

And still the critics wouldn't let go. Another wanted to know how the new show planned to handle the original series' famous catchphrase "Who loves you, baby?"

"Let me see — 'Who loves to get medieval on you' [he-nie]?" Rhames answered.

"That was a serious question," the critic shot back.

"That was a serious answer," Rhames replied.

Rhames seemed to be doing great against this mostly hostile television press corps, but the quizzing took a toll. At the end of the Q&A session, one critic asked Rhames how often he thinks back to that night at the Golden Globe Awards in 1998 when he won best actor in a TV miniseries for "Don King: Only in America" and handed the trophy over to his competitor Jack Lemmon. Did he really let Lemmon keep the trophy, the critic wanted to know.

The big guy cracked. "I think God that He used me in that moment to really show what I think being an artist is about," Rhames said, his eyes beginning to tear up.

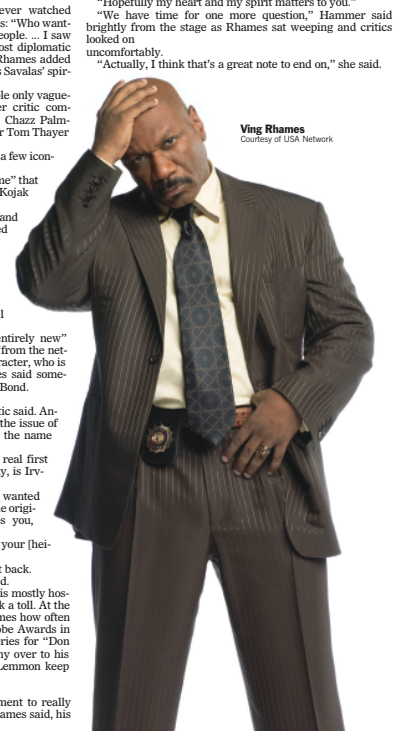
"So often I think this industry pushes almost a competition between actors, and that's why, for me, even though this is called 'Kojak,' this is to me, it's USA, it's NBC, it's Universal, it's Chazz Palminteri, it's Roselyn Sanchez... I think it takes a village to raise a good television show."

Rhames continued, his voice catching, tears slipping down his cheeks: "So for me, it's — and I mean no offense by this, but whether the name is Kojak or Lopez... what I'm trying to do as an artist and as a man and as part of my legacy on this planet is show how similar we are, how if I take any kid and raise him in the ghetto in Harlem and he goes out and kills someone or steals from someone... the system is set up so that kid is damn near born in a trap... I'm trying to get the world to see that there's really not that much difference between you and I. And my name really doesn't matter."

"Hopefully my heart and my spirit matters to you."

"We have time for one more question," Hammer said brightly from the stage as Rhames sat weeping and critics looked on uncomfortably.

"Actually, I think that's a great note to end on," she said.



Ving Rhames

Courtesy of USA Network

# Serial killer aims to end execution hiatus

BY STEVENSON SWANSON  
Chicago Tribune

SOMERS, Conn. — For about as long as Michael Ross has been alive, no New England state has carried out a death sentence. Both Ross' life and that long hiatus in executions could end Wednesday when Ross, a convicted serial killer, is scheduled to die in Connecticut's death chamber here.

If all goes according to plan, it will be the first execution in the six New England states in 45 years, which also is Ross' age. In a region generally seen as more socially liberal than such strongholds of capital punishment as Texas and Virginia, the case has become the focus of intense interest, in part because Ross has said he wants to die.

Although death penalty opponents maintain he probably could delay his execution for at least five years with various appeals, Ross has instructed his lawyer to drop all challenges to the sentence and to oppose all appeals, including Ross' father, who have sought to intervene on his behalf.

"He does not want to put the victims' families through any more pain," said T.R. Paulding, Ross' attorney. "He believes it's the only thing to do."

Ross, a Cornell University graduate, admitted killing eight teenage girls and young women in Connecticut and New York in the early 1980s.

He also raped some of his victims. After nearly 18 years on death row, Ross is scheduled to die at about 2 a.m. EST Wednesday. The execution by injection

## Michael Ross wants to die in Connecticut despite others' efforts to challenge ruling

will take place at the Osborn Correctional Institution, part of a complex of state prisons in this northern Connecticut village, brought about by DNA evidence that clears a convict, doubts cast on jailhouse confessions and questions regarding the competence of many murder suspects' legal defense.

Those numbers seem to reflect new concerns about capital punishment in light of a spate of exonerations nationwide, brought about by DNA evidence that clears a convict, doubts cast on jailhouse confessions and questions regarding the competence of many murder suspects' legal defense.

But "volunteers" such as Ross are difficult to stop, said Richard Dieter, director of the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, who noted that Gary Gilmore, the first convict to be executed following the reinstatement of capital punishment in the 1970s, was a volunteer.

About 1 in 9 convicts who are executed fall into that category.

"I don't think it reflects a shift in attitudes," Dieter said. "The region remains reluctant to impose the death penalty."

Recent surveys have shown ambivalence at Connecticut residents' attitudes about the ultimate punishment. A Quinnipiac University poll found that, given a choice between imposing the death sentence or life in prison without parole, 49

per cent of those polled said they favored life imprisonment, compared with 37 percent for the death penalty.

But residents overwhelmingly support Ross' execution. A University of Connecticut poll last week found that 81 percent of those surveyed thought the sentence should be carried out.

That may reflect public revulsion at the gruesome nature of the crimes — Ross, who has said he suffers from "sexual sadism," strangled his victims — and sympathy for the families.

"People say it time heals all wounds," Edwin Shelley, the father of a 14-year-old whom Ross raped and strangled on Easter Sunday 1984, said after a court appearance last month. "That wound is still as open today as it was then. You can live with it, you can adjust to it, but when it's brought up, it hurts like hell."

In the most recent challenge to his mental state, Ross was interviewed last month in his prison cell for four hours by a court-appointed psychiatrist. He talked at length about the families of his victims and why he should die Wednesday.

"I believe I have a moral responsibility to these people," he said in excerpts published this month after a judge ruled he was competent. "I owe them. I killed their daughters."

Michael Ross  
Serial killer on why he wants to die

“I owe them (victims’ families). I killed their daughters.”

Michael Ross  
Serial killer on why he wants to die

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Michael Ross  
Serial killer on why he wants to die

## Slaying of N.J. family spurs new wave of anti-Muslim sentiment

BY WAYNE PARRY  
The Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The dirty looks and shouted slurs started in 1993 after Muslims living here helped plan the bombing that damaged the World Trade Center just across the Hudson River.

They intensified after Sept. 11, 2001, when Muslim hijackers destroyed the twin towers.

Now a third wave of anti-Muslim sentiment is washing over New Jersey's second-largest city, sparked this time by reports that the murders of an Egyptian Christian man, his wife and two young daughters might have been carried out by Muslims angered by messages the man posted in an Internet chat room.

The strife is particularly distressing in light of efforts the area's Muslim community made to reach out to other faiths and strengthen ties after the 9/11 attacks. Imams visited churches and synagogues. Joint prayer breakfasts and open houses were held.

Muslim merchants visited the homes of their Christian and Jewish counterparts, and strongly denounced the attacks.

"We've been working for three years on getting Christians together with Muslims," said Mohamed Younes, president of the American Muslim Union. "Now much of that progress is going to be definitely going to be set back."

The bodies of Hossam Armanious, a 47-year-old Coptic Christian,



A crying mourner carries a hand-drawn casket and a photo of Amal Garas during a funeral for an Egyptian Christian family in Jersey City, N.J., on Jan. 17.

than, his 37-year-old wife, Amal Garas, and their daughters, Sylvia, 15, and Monica, 8, were discovered Jan. 14 in the family's home. They had been bound and gagged, and each was stabbed repeatedly in the neck and head. No arrests have been made.

Although prosecutors have stressed that robbery remains a possible motive in the case, many in this city's sizable Egyptian population believe the killings were religiously motivated.

That feeling is all too familiar for people like Ahmed Sheddad, director of the Islamic Center of Jersey City.

"We Muslims living in America are getting sick of this crap," he said. "Why should we have to apologize for or make a defense of something we had nothing to do with? There is no proof at all that Muslims had anything to do with this, yet we are taking the blame again. Is Islam on trial, or is a killer on trial?"

After the killings, Muslims tried anew to mend fences, but the results were mixed at best. Several attended the family's funeral, but a New York cleric was escorted out of the church hall as a precaution after a heckler shouted at him. Mourners engaged in several scuffles before and after the funeral, including one in which about 35 people pushed, shoved and traded punches in the street while others yelled anti-Islam slogans.

A few days later, Muslim leaders called a news conference to try to calm religious tensions, but Coptic leaders who were invited did not attend, citing a religious holiday, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrating Jesus' baptism. A similar interfaith event planned for this Sunday, which had been in the works for months, was postponed because of the snowstorm heading for the area.

The killings have spread fear among Coptic Christians far beyond Jersey City. Relatives of the Armanious family in Egypt blamed the killings on violence against Christians and weak interpersonal relationships in American society. Members of the St. Abraham's Coptic



Elha Torres looks at a memorial set up outside the Armanious family home in Jersey City, N.J., on Thursday. The murder of the family of four, who were Coptic Christians who immigrated from Egypt, has raised anti-Muslim sentiments among some in this community. Investigators are looking into the possibility that Hossam Armanious had angered Muslims with his postings in an Internet chat room.

Orthodox Church in Woodbury, N.Y., said the killings appeared to be "a religiously motivated hate crime against Coptic Christians."

"A lot of families are feeling the fear and terror that comes along with something like this," said Maged Riad, a church member. "They got them in their home in the middle of the night. People want to know they can be safe in their own homes."

Many Copts complain of discrimination in Egypt, where violence between the two communities has flared sporadically in recent years. Coptic Christians comprise less than 6 percent of Egypt's population. The church is part of the family of the Oriental Orthodox Churches of Syria, Ethiopia and Armenia. Orthodox Christians and Roman Catholics split in 1054 over the authority of the pope.

At St. George & St. Shenouda Coptic Orthodox Church in Jersey City, where the Armanious family was active, the Rev. David Behyoun urged restraint and said he was troubled by the heated rhetoric that followed the slayings.

"We are waiting to see what the result of the investigation is," he said. "It's too early to blame anyone."

Suzanne Loutfy, a Muslim leader of the Egyptian-American Group, asked people not to blame Islam if the killers are found to be Muslim.

"People are so willing to condemn an entire religion," she said. "That's what the big problem is. People commit crimes; religions don't. I hope we can be intelligent enough to separate those two."





# Horoscope

When the moon enters Leo this afternoon, all the inventive energy of the Aquarian solar influence is given the impetus. The impending full moon adds the exhilarated buzz that comes from letting creativity sing through us. Creatively, like love, isn't something one needs to generate. Its energy is already present, and we need only be open to it!

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 24)

This year, you'll realize how truly loved you are. Family and friends shower you with attention, while guardian angels disguised as perfect strangers endeavor to offer you assistance. Be sure you know what you want this spring. You'll purchase a luxury item in September. A romantic getaway beckons in July or October. Love signs are Leo and Libra. Your lucky numbers are: 29, 34, 12, 13 and 44.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Prepare for a change of events in your social life. The sudden entrance or exit of a certain individual sets off a tumultuous chain of events, enabling you to pursue your dreams with energy and enthusiasm.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You feel as though your life is a reality TV show — you're constantly "on" and don't seem to have as much privacy as you're accustomed to. Your existence is more glamorous than you think. Enjoy your skyrocketing ratings.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You are of two minds regarding an important career path. One road requires much patience and waiting, the other immediate action. If you're really stuck, ask yourself, "What would follow Gemini Clint Eastwood do?"

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Small changes you make to your life, if practiced consistently, can tally huge benefits for you over time. Don't forget that every journey begins with a single step, and every step begins with a single thought.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Someone else's story is your treasure. Check out flea markets, used bookstores, eBay, vintage clothing stores and other places where you're likely

to turn lead into gold. A fantastic find is yours for the asking.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You may have to revise your plans based on someone else's schedule. Try not to fret too much. While this sudden shift may be frustrating and could inconvenience you temporarily, the end results will be worth the wait.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You're magnetic, effortlessly drawing people to you and widening your already large circle of friends. Embrace the new, more sociable you. A romantic partner is being very mysterious. Adopting a wait-and-see attitude is best.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

A message from a far-off friend may bring an invitation to travel and perhaps study abroad. Make your plans well in advance so you have time to save up. A change of scenery may do you good.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Money's a little tight as bills from the holiday season roll in. Penny pinching is definitely not your style, but a little self-control serves you well. Do you really need to buy more books, or can you visit the library?

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You have a calming effect on those around you, a trait that may prove valuable in the business world.

Just be sure your boss doesn't see you as irreplaceable, or you'll never convince him or her to give you that promotion.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Let your innate courage guide you into your future. Just because your dream sounds far-fetched, that's no reason to abandon it. Use your common sense, but allow your creativity equal say. The two aren't mutually exclusive.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

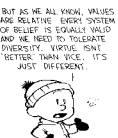
A project that encountered delays last month heats up once again. You've had plenty of time to plot and think — the time to act is now! Self-doubt's a major waste of time. Lead by the strength of your convictions.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



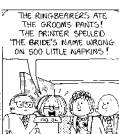
## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



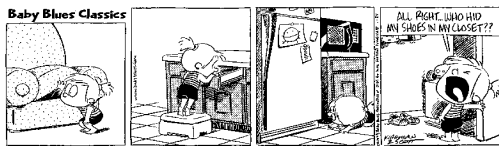
Fotrot



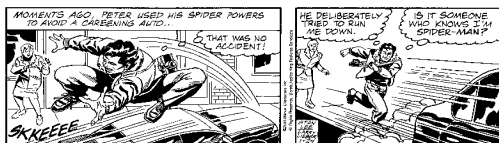
B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



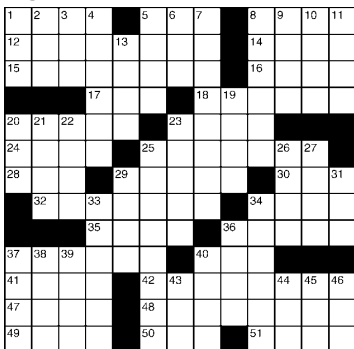
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Sound of laughter
- 5 Foundation
- 8 — rush (forced dismissal)
- 12 Musical intro
- 14 Exam format
- 15 Admonitions
- 16 Appellation
- 17 Wapiti
- 18 Sent a wire
- 20 Tangle
- 23 Mexican money
- 24 Shetland, for one
- 25 Inner materials
- 28 Exist
- 29 Evans or Ellerbe
- 30 Rowboat aid
- 32 Storefront canopies
- 34 Long story
- 35 Biblical prophet
- 36 Sacred composition
- 37 Frolic
- 40 Have a bug
- 41 Medley
- 42 Salary
- 47 Grant's is famous
- 48 More of a mess
- 49 Palette selections
- 50 Wrong (Prof.)
- 51 Snead and Spade

## Down

- 1 Explanation, often
- 2 Eggs
- 3 Yon maiden
- 4 Cantankerous
- 5 Nonsense
- 6 Work unit
- 7 Drops
- 8 Chocolate treat
- 9 Caspian Sea feeder
- 10 Jerry Herman show
- 11 Coaster
- 13 Cash drawer
- 19 Largest of the seven
- 20 Collegian's stat
- 21 Asta's mistress
- 22 From square one
- 23 Engine knocks
- 25 Kitchen flooring, often
- 26 Capricorn
- 27 Wise one
- 29 From-night transport
- 31 Snitch
- 33 Business bigwigs
- 34 Cube, cone, sphere, et al.
- 36 Skirt length
- 37 Music subculture
- 38 Felipe of baseball
- 39 Marceau's specialty
- 40 Crafts' partner
- 43 Blackbird
- 44 Actress Vardalos
- 45 Idaho, the — State
- 46 Grads-to-be (Abbr.)

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## I-24 CRYPTOQUIP

N K O M W B O B N O Z G B  
C B O K N F C N S K O K V B  
U N K V C M M W G M M C O W Z J V K

ONR "UFMRO" NSG "JFAAO."  
Saturday's Cryptquip: TWO LAUNDERERS  
WERE IN A HOT DEBATE, BUT THEY FINALLY  
IRONED OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals S

# Move to new town bothers mother

**Dear Abby:** I am a 26-year-old woman who has been married for a year and a half. After our wedding, my husband, "Wendell," and I moved 2½ hours away from my hometown. I have a job in the catering business and my husband is a successful attorney. I'm happier now than I have ever been.

The problem is my mother, who has never stopped making me feel guilty about moving. Recently, Mom has become mean and offensive, saying maybe she should just forget about me rather than deal with the pain of my living so far away. She says she'd rather not see her future grandchildren at all if it's going to be only once or twice a month. Mother expects me to visit her whenever I have free time. She refuses to accept that I work full time and have responsibilities.

I have tried to reason with her, but her only response is that I should

move closer. I know she misses me, but I feel she is being unreasonable. I know of many other parents who have supported their children moving away. I'm afraid I'll lose my mother if I don't move closer. Can you give me some advice?

—Missing Mom

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Missing:** Please don't sacrifice a life in which you are happier than you have ever been in order to please your mother. That you were able to marry and leave the nest is proof that she was successful as a parent. In some families, the umbilical cord is never severed

— it stays connected with chicken soup running in between — and it's not healthy for anyone.

**Dear Abby:** I was dating a man for nearly a year, and it was wonderful until things started to unravel. After we had dated for several months and things were

starting to get serious, he introduced me to his 7-year-old daughter, "Emma."

Emma and I took to each other immediately and became great friends. She would call me on the phone and ask to hang out with me and her dad.

Sadly, things with her father and me didn't work out, and I broke off the relationship. Now I'm struggling to explain to Emma why I'm no longer around. What is the best way to deal with this?

—Heartbroken in Virginia

**Dear Heartbroken:** The kindest thing would be to visit with Emma and explain to her that the relationship you had with her father wasn't meant to be. Tell her that you think she is terrific, and the breakup had nothing to do with her, so she won't be left with the impression that it's because of something she did. You'll be doing the child a favor.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**DOPEK**



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**PENTI**



**NAULCY**



[www.jumble.com](http://www.jumble.com)

**FASTIE**



**Answer:**  UP

(Answers tomorrow)

**Family Circus**

**Answer:** When he bought the jalopy, he ended up with a — "HEAP" OF TROUBLE.

# Boyfriend hid cross-dressing side

**Dear Annie:** I am a middle-aged, divorced lady with two older sons at home. I am conservative and have a good job in a medium-sized town. I have been dating "Gregg," also divorced, for over a year, and everything is going great. He is responsible, kind, sensitive, and a wonderful, passionate man. We have been making tentative plans to marry, and we love each other very much.

Here's the catch. Once, I noticed Gregg wearing women's panties. He thought it was too dark for me to see him, but when he got undressed and went into the bathroom, I turned on the light and saw a nice pair of lacy, nylon panties. I was shocked because Gregg is a macho guy.

When he came back in the room, I was holding the panties. He was embarrassed, but came clean and told me he has been a cross-dresser since childhood. He apologized for not telling me. I don't want to end our relationship, but I also don't want to see

him dressed as a woman. Gregg said that he dresses up once or twice a week for a few hours, that it relaxes him and is important for his mental health.

I am good-natured and think I could handle it if he does it when I'm not around. But I'm worried that my children or family will make a fuss if they find out. Please advise me, as I am in love with a wonderful man but very confused.

—Hoosier Panties in an Upnor

**Dear Hoosier:** You have a healthy, tolerant attitude, which bodes well for your future with Gregg. Understand that Gregg is not going to give up cross-dressing, but he should respect your request that he not do it in front of you or your family. However, it is still quite possible that someone will find out. Before making any commitments, please get more information on the subject. We recommend Tri-Ess ([tri-ess.org](http://tri-ess.org)), a support group for heterosexual cross-dressers and their partners.

**Dear Annie:** I am getting older, and while I have many friends, I have no family members. I have started giving away many of my things to people who will treasure them. However, when I die, I will need someone to clean out my closets and drawers and dispose of my basic possessions. I do not want my friends to deal with this. Are there people who handle this sort of thing?

—San Dimas, Calif.

**Dear San Dimas:** Yes. Talk to a lawyer and draw up your will so your wishes will be followed. Then appoint someone to be your executor. It can be a friend, or your lawyer, banker, etc. Let them know the situation, and ask them, when the time comes, to hire a service to clean your home and donate or liquidate your possessions.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

**Annie's Mailbox**



1-24

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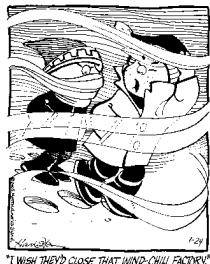
**"PJ can go outside now, Mommy. I've got him all bungled up."**

**GRAFFITI**

**BREAK THE LANGUAGE BARRIER — SMILE**

ME 1/24

**Demis the Menace**



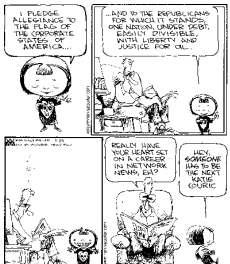
© Gary Larson

**The Far Side**



"According to the map, this should be the place—but I sure don't look right to me... Well, we're supposed to die around here somewhere."

**Non Sequitur**



## SEE SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 25





# Williams' 'ifs' Wake past Cincinnati

BY JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Eric Williams knew it would come down to him.

Wake Forest's versatile center was two inches taller than anyone on Cincinnati's front line. With that advantage in mind, the Demon Deacons planned to spread out, get him the ball and let him score.

It only took a couple of shots for Williams to put rest fretting.

The 6-foot-9 center scored a career-high 29 points, having his way with Cincinnati's front line, and No. 3 Wake Forest never trailed in a 74-70 victory Saturday over the 20th-ranked Bearcats.

"I felt nervous," Williams said. "I knew the kind of players we were playing against today. They play so hard. I was putting a lot of pressure on myself. I was telling myself I can't let the team down coming off a loss."

The Demon Deacons (16-2) rebounded from their overtime loss to Florida State by hitting their free throws down the stretch — something they didn't do against the Seminoles.

Taron Downey missed a free throw with 4 seconds left against

Florida State, ending Wake Forest's NCAA record at 50 consecutive free throws made and sending it to overtime. He swished two free throws with 2 seconds left on Saturday to clinch the win, and Wake Forest made his last seven overall.

"We needed a game like this," coach Skip Prosser said.

The Bearcats (15-3) had their biggest weaknesses exposed as they lost at home to a ranked team for the second time in eight days.

They also fell by three points against Louisville last Saturday.

Neither 6-foot-7 Jason Maxwell nor 6-foot-6 Eric Hicks — the power forward who anchors Cincinnati's front line — could keep up with a taller player who shot over them once he got the ball.

"It was a gamble," Hicks said. "By the time I got around him, he had it and it would dunk."

Chris Paul added 21 points for Wake Forest, which improved to 5-1 against ranked teams this season. Paul was 5-for-7 from behind the arc.

Hicks had 18 points, only two of them in the second half, to lead three Cincinnati players in double figures.

An intriguing matchup of one of the nation's top offenses against one of the toughest defenses turned on the Bearcats' inability to stop Williams. Wake Forest came in averaging 85.5 points per game and had scored 80 points in nine straight, its longest such streak since 10 in a row in 1976-77.

Cincinnati went after the Demon Deacons with a physical man-to-man defense that holds opponents to 35.8 percent shooting, fourth-best in the nation. It swarmed Williams but couldn't keep him from getting the ball or going 13-for-18 from the field.

"Eric was given the opportunity, and he played extremely well," Prosser said. "It's difficult to guard him with one guy when he gets the ball with both feet in [the lane]. During timeouts, the kids were saying, 'We've got to get it in there.' We said, 'You're the guys who are out there.'"

Williams got the ball on four of the Demon Deacons' first five possessions. Cincinnati went to a half-court trap that was totally ineffective — Williams had a pair of dunks and Paul made an unexpected three-point shot that pushed it to 19-7.

"It seemed like he didn't miss,"

Cincinnati forward James White said of Williams. "We've got to do a better job of helping Eric and Max so he doesn't touch the ball."

Hicks had a three-point play and his second career three-point shot, cutting it to 26-25. Wake Forest stayed in front by going to Williams, who had 16 points in the first half, and Paul, who was 4-for-4 from behind the arc.

It was the same thing in the second half. Williams scored Wake Forest's first two baskets, setting the tone. Jamal Levy's putback with 12:37 left put the Demon Deacons up 58-47.

Cincinnati got a pullup jumper from Arneim Kirkland and a fast-break layup by Chad Moore, but cut it to 61-61 with 5 minutes left. White's two free throws cut it to 70-68 with 47 seconds left, and Paul missed a driving jumper, giving Cincinnati one last chance.

Following a timeout with 21 seconds to go, Maxiell missed a turnaround baseline jumper. Levy got the rebound and made both free throws with 10.2 seconds left. Downey's two free throws then clinched it.

An hour before the tip-off, Cincinnati coach Bob Huggins sat down next to Prosser and shared



Wake Forest guard Chris Paul (33) drives past Cincinnati defender Arneim Kirkland on Saturday.

a few laughs. Huggins and Prosser developed a friendship while Prosser coached Xavier from 1994-01, taking the edge off a cross-town rivalry that had turned bitter.

Prosser got the better of Huggins in their annual tip-out, cross-town games, winning four of seven. Overall, Prosser is 6-4 in their head-to-head games.

# Hokies earn first win over ranked team in 23 years

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Virginia Tech needed a little luck to win its first road game over a ranked opponent in 23 years.

It came in the final seconds. Georgia Tech's Isma'il Muhammad missed two free throws with 5:30 left and the No. 12 Yellow Jackets missed two putback attempts as Virginia Tech survived a frantic final seconds for a 76-69 upset Saturday.

"We got lucky at the end of the game," Virginia Tech coach Seth Greenberg said. "Let's face it, any of those shots could have gone in."

Instead, the Yellow Jackets (11-5, 2-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) lost their third straight while the Hokies (10-6, 3-2) celebrated a milestone win.

In addition to winning their first road conference game in their first season in the ACC, the Hokies took their first victory at a ranked team's home floor since Jan. 23, 1982, when they won at No. 17 Louisville. Also, Virginia Tech had a team ranked as high as No. 12 for the first time since defeating No. 2 Memphis on Feb. 1, 1986.

"This is a great confidence-booster, playing the No. 12 team in the nation on their own court and beating them," said Virginia Tech's Carlos Dixon, who scored 21 points, including the decisive basket with 36 seconds left.

"This shows us we can compete in the ACC. It shows everybody in the nation we're no pushovers."

Following Muhammad's second missed free throw, Ra'Sean Dickey and Mario West each missed putbacks for Georgia Tech's offense rebounded.

Zabian Dowdell added 18 points for the Hokies.

## Men's Top 25 Roundup

Will Bynum matched his career-high with 28 points for Georgia Tech (11-5, 2-3), which lost for the first time at home this season. Fresh Jack added 15 points and Muhammad had 14.

Georgia Tech senior guard B.J. Elder, the team's second-leading scorer, missed his fifth straight game with a hamstring injury.

Elder practiced during the week but was not in uniform for the game.

"Let's face it, if Elder plays it's probably a different game," Greenberg said. "I can't imagine facing Elder, Jack and Bynum. Bynum was ridiculous."

**Villanova 83, No. 2 Kansas 62:** At Philadelphia, undefeated Kansas never stood a chance once Allen Ray, Curtis Sumpter and the rest of the spirited Wildcats got rolling.

Sumpter sank five three-pointers and scored 25 points. Ray made four threes and scored 27. Villanova (10-4) led by as many as 32 points in a stunning victory over the Jayhawks.

The Wildcats went on a 15-2 run to open the second half, gave up three points, then reeled off 16 straight points.

Wayne Simien led Kansas (14-1) with 15 points and J.R. Giddens and Sasha Kham had 11.

**No. 4 Duke 88, Florida State 56:** J.J. Redick scored a season-high 31 points and visiting Duke stayed unbeaten.

Florida State (10-4, 5-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) were never in trouble, jumping to an

18-8 lead and steadily building it to as many as 33 late in the game.

**No. 5 Oklahoma 51, 82, Baylor 53:** At Stillwater, Okla., Joey Graham scored 24 points to help Oklahoma State rebound from its loss to Texas.

Kelenna James-On Curry added 14 points, including 10 in the final 2:16, as the Cowboys (14-2, 4-1 Big 12 Conference) won the first game at the newly named Eddie Sutton Court.

**No. 6 North Carolina 87, Miami 67:** Sean May had 17 points, Jawad Williams and Jackie Manuel each added 14 and North Carolina made the most of a rare home game.

Raymond Felton and Rashad McCants had 10 points apiece for the No. 5 Tar Heels (16-2, 5-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who are in the middle of a stretch during which they play six of eight games on the road.

**No. 7 Syracuse 72, West Virginia 64:** Hakim Warrick had 22 points and 13 rebounds, Gerry McNamara scored 18 points and Billy Edelin added a season-high 17 for the Orange.

It was the 12th straight win for Syracuse (19-1, 6-0 Big East), which equaled the best start in school history.

**No. 8 Kentucky 89, LSU 58:** At Lexington, Ky., Patrick Sparks won 5-for-7 from three-point range and scored 15 points to lead the Wildcats.

Kelenna Azubuike added 16 points for Kentucky (14-2, 5-0 Southeastern Conference), which made a season-high 11 three-pointers in 20 attempts to win for the 14th time in the last 15 meetings with LSU (9-6, 2-1).

**No. 11 Gonzaga 68, San Diego 56:** At San Diego, center

J.P. Batista scored a career-high 22 points and Gonzaga opened the second half with a 16-0 run.

The Bulldogs (14-4, 4-2 West Coast Conference) got some help from the Toreros (10-8, 2-3), who shot just 16 percent in the second half and 30.6 percent overall.

**No. 13 Arizona 92, Oregon State 83:** Salim Stoudamire scored 25 points to help visiting Arizona overcome a 15-point first-half deficit.

Channing Frye had 20 points and seven rebounds for the Wildcats (16-3, 6-1), who outrebounded the Beavers 36-22.

**No. 14 Louisville 85, Tennessee 62:** Francisco Garcia scored 20 points to lead Louisville.

Garcia had seven points during a crucial 24-2 second-half run, and added had nine rebounds and four assists for the Cardinals (16-3), who have won 10 of 11.

**No. 17 Mississippi State 73, South Carolina 65:** At Starkville, Miss., Lawrence Roberts had 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead five Mississippi State scorers in double figures.

Donnell Campbell, Jamall Edmondson and Shane Power each had 11 points for Mississippi State (16-4, 4-2 Southeastern Conference).

**No. 18 Oklahoma 64, No. 15 Texas 60:** Kevin Bookout had 18 points and 13 rebounds, Lawrence McKenzie scored 15 and host Oklahoma (15-2, 4-0 Big 12) won its ninth straight.

The Sooners outmuscled the Longhorns, who were in their first game without leading scorer and junior P.J. Tucker, ruler academically ineligible earlier in the week.

**No. 19 Michigan State 69, Minnesota 55:** At Minneapolis,

Alan Anderson scored 13 points — 11 from the foul line — as Michigan State made 26 of 28 foul shots to hold off Minnesota.

Maurice Ager and Shannon Brown each added 12 points for the Spartans (12-4, 1 Big Ten).

**No. 22 Alabama 66, Mississippi 58:** Kennedy Winston scored 26 points and Jermaree Davidson had a game-high 13 rebounds for the visiting Crimson Tide.

Alabama (15-3, 4-1 Southeastern Conference) snapped a seven-game road losing streak at Mississippi (11-8, 2-4), last winning 59-46 in the 1996-97 season.

**No. 23 Iowa 71, Purdue 57:** At Iowa city, Iowa, Greg Brummer and Doug Thomas each scored 14 points to help Iowa bounce back from a loss to top-ranked Illinois.

After a sluggish start, the Hawkeyes (14-4, 2-3 Big Ten) built an 18-point halftime lead and were never threatened in the second half, easily rebounding from Thursday's overtime loss against the Illini.

**No. 24 Wisconsin 72, Michigan 61:** Mike Williams had 28 points and a career-high 15 rebounds to help the host Badgers win for the eighth time in nine games.

The Badgers (13-3, 4-1 Big Ten) led by just five at halftime, but opened the second half with an 11-2 run.

**Charlotte 76, No. 25 Marquette 66:** At Milwaukee, Eddie Basden scored 23 points and Brendan Plavich added 20 for Charlotte.

Curtis Withers had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the 49ers (13-3, 4-1 Conference USA), who rebounded from a loss to Cincinnati on Wednesday that snapped the team's nine-game winning streak.

# Pitt's defense too much for No. 16 UConn

## Troutman helps lead No. 21 Panthers past their Big East rival

BY DONNA TOMMELEO

The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Chevon Troutman and Pittsburgh's rugged defense were more than Connecticut could handle.

In a matchup of Big East heavyweights, the No. 21 Panthers rallied from 17 points down to upset the 16th-ranked Huskies 76-66 before a raucous UConn crowd.

Troutman scored 25 of his career-high 29 points in the second half and the Panther defense did the rest, holding UConn to 27 percent shooting in the final 20 minutes.

"We always dig ourselves a hole and we always come back," Troutman said. "We haven't been getting the big plays down the stretch and we've been taking plays off down the stretch. Tonight is a night when we didn't take a play off down the stretch."

Pitt and UConn had split six meetings over the last three seasons and played each other in the conference tournament final the past three seasons. It was the first win for the Panthers on UConn's homecourt in five tries.

The snowstorm that pounded the Northeast made it difficult for UConn fans. Fans who didn't make it to the game donated about 3,000 tickets to students who helped fill the 10,000-seat Gampel Pavilion. And the crowd let the



Pittsburgh's Antonio Graves, left, takes the ball past Connecticut's Rashad Anderson, right, during the first half in Storrs, Conn., on Saturday.

Panthers hear it from the opening tip.

But in the closing seconds they began quickly filling out in droves. Pitt guard Carl Krauser skipped over to the sidelines, grabbed his jersey and let the departing crowd know "We're not going to lose. We're the beast of the East."

Troutman was a beast in the second half.

The 6-foot-7 power forward scored 10 straight points midway through the second half and gave the Panthers (13-3, 3-2 Big East) their first lead at 55-54 with 8:14 left — and Pitt never gave it back.

"The guys did an unbelievable job getting it done," Pittsburgh coach Jamie Dixon said.

The Huskies (11-4, 3-2) had a nine-point lead at the half but watched it dissolve because of poor shooting and the Panthers' tough post defense.

UConn went nearly nine minutes in the second half without a field goal, while Troutman went on his 10-0 run, built largely on inside baskets.

"We've lost four games this year and far away this was the most disappointing," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said. "We completely got taken out of our offense."

It was a matchup of two of the best rebounding teams in the nation. UConn led the nation in rebounding margin (15.6) and the Panthers (10.6) were fifth coming into the game. The Huskies lived up to their billing in the first half, dominating inside even without star center Josh Boone, who was in early foul trouble.

Connecticut used runs of 9-0 and 8-0 in the first half to build a 17-point lead late in the period. They played solid both inside and out, riding the perimeter play of Rashad Anderson, who was 4-for-6 from three-point range in the half. The Huskies led 43-32 at the half.

But the second half was all Pittsburgh. The Panthers outscored UConn 26-22 in the paint and came up with key blocks down the stretch. Troutman led Pittsburgh with 12 boards and had two of the Panthers' five blocks. Carl Krauser added 15 and Chris Taft had 10 for Pittsburgh.

Anderson led UConn with 19 points and Villanueva had 14 points and 10 boards.

"Troutman played a magnificent game," Calhoun said. "They did what we could not do. They executed their offense, took their time, took the shots they wanted."

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# Boston College hangs on to stay unbeaten

BY JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Boston College coach Al Skinner isn't getting caught up in his Eagles being one of three remaining unbeaten teams in Division I.

"We're just trying to have success in our league. That's what counts with us," Skinner said after No. 9 Boston College beat St. John's 79-73 on Saturday night. "The 11-0 non-league mark is already in the books and for that to pay dividends we have to continue what we're doing."

Jared Dudley scored 19 points to lead Boston College's balanced offense to a win that extended the best start in school history and left the Eagles (16-0, 5-0 Big East) third shy of the school-best winning streak set by the 1968-69 team. It was the ninth straight road win for Boston College, which is in its final season in the Big East before moving to the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Top-ranked Illinois and No. 4 Duke are the other unbeaten as No. 2 Kansas lost earlier Saturday to Villanova.

Six of his candidates for Boston College scored at least nine points. Jermaine Watson, one of the best sixth men in college basketball, had 16 points, six above his average.

Watson went 7-for-8 from the field, grabbed four rebounds and three of the Eagles' 12 steals. "It was his kind of game, a little 1-on-1, a lot of up and down," Skinner said. "He took it as a chal-

lenge. Those are the kind of challenges he likes and he was obviously very effective."

Darryl Hill, the Big East's leading scorer with a 20.9 average, had 21 points for the Red Storm (7-8, 1-4), who fell to 2-2 against ranked teams this season. They were coming off a 65-62 victory over No. 21 Pittsburgh and also beat then-No. 17 North Carolina State.

Hill didn't start for the first time this season. First-year coach Norm Roberts sat him for the opening 3:34 for being 3 minutes late to a team meeting.

"I deserved it. I was late," the sophomore guard said. "I have to set a better example as a captain."

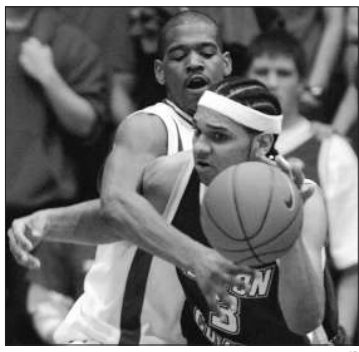
With the crowd at Carnesecca Arena held to 2,314 because of the snowstorm blanketing the Northeast, St. John's jumped to an 11-2 lead. Boston College took the lead for good at 28-26 on a three-pointer by 7-footer Nate Dormkamp with 4:43 left in the first half.

The Red Storm used some solid shooting to stay close but the Eagles used an 8-2 run to take a 53-46 lead with 12:57 to go.

Watson's layup with 8:03 left gave Boston College its first double-digit lead, 60-50, and the biggest it got was 67-54 on two free throws by Sean Williams with 6:15 to go.

The Red Storm shot 54 percent in the first half but struggled to shoot 44 percent in the second against the Eagles' matchup zone.

"We got good shots, we didn't make them," Roberts said. "We



Boston College forward Jared Dudley is fouled by St. John's Lamont Hamilton during the second half Saturday. Boston College won 79-73.

struggled, obviously. We're not a good outside shooting team."

Louis Hannant added 12 points for Boston College, while Craig Smith and Sean Marshall each had 10 and Dormkamp had nine.

Freshman guard Eugene Lawrence had a career-high 18 points for the Red Storm and Lamont Hamilton had 14 points and 13 rebounds.

"They rebounded well and beat

us to loose balls, especially early," Skinner said of the Red Storm, who are coming off a 6-21 season, the worst in school history. "We were able to get some turnovers that led to easy baskets."

Boston College was the first Top 10 team to play in Carnesecca Arena, which used to be called Alumni Hall, since No. 7 Louisville beat No. 9 St. John's there 76-71 on Feb. 3, 1980.

# It all seems to side with Sox in dispute over Series ball

BY JIMMY GOLEN  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Doug Mientkiewicz, call a lawyer. You're going to need to keep the baseball you caught for the final out of the World Series.

The Red Sox first baseman is storing the ball that clinched Boston's first title since 1918 in a safe-deposit box near his Florida home. But the Red Sox want it back so they can show it off, and legal scholars say the team has a good case if it wants to fight Mientkiewicz in court.

"What appears to be emerging as a legal question is that the person with the least rights to it is Mientkiewicz himself," said Yale Law School Dean Harold Hongju Koh, who ranked the claims as: "the Cardinals, the Red Sox, Major League Baseball and then the guy who happened to hold it at the end of the game."

Baseball clubs don't routinely distribute game balls like football teams do, and the final out is most likely to wind up tossed to a fan unless one of the players reached a milestone that day. No one's spent much time discussing who actually owns the ball because, until now, it hasn't really mattered.

As the rise of the memorabilia market makes such items increasingly valuable, though, baseball is being forced to confront the issue of who owns the otherwise interchangeable pieces — the bases, the balls, the uniforms — that make the game go. On the same day the Red Sox clinched the Series, the ball Barry Bonds hit for his 700th career homer sold for \$804,129.

"What this has done is force the baseball teams and MLB to make some decisions about who gets the noncontractual value of a valuable trophy," said Paul Finkelman, a law professor at the University of Tulsa. "Does [Mientkiewicz] get a \$500,000 bonus because he's the last guy to hold it?"

Mientkiewicz kept the ball in his keepsake when St. Louis shortstop Edgar Renteria knocked it back to Red Sox pitcher Keith Foulke with two outs in the ninth inning of the fourth game of the World Series. Foulke made an underhand toss to first base, and Bonds' 700th homer was on.

Mientkiewicz also made the final putt of the AL championship series victory over the New York Yankees and gave that ball to pitcher Derek Lowe. But the first baseman kept this one, and it was among the many items authenticated by Major League Baseball in the chaotic clubhouse afterward.

Mientkiewicz initially called the ball his "retirement fund," though he later backed off those comments and said he wants it for sentimental value. The problem is, so does the team that waited nine decades to even have a chance to talk about the last out of a World Series victory.

"It's not Doug's ball. It belongs to all of us," said Roger Abrams, a Northeastern University law professor who has written several baseball books. "He is the trustee of the ball but it is owned by all of Red Sox Nation, and it should find a place of special importance, either at Fenway or Cooperstown."

Finkelman, who was an expert witness in the court fight over Bonds' 73rd home run ball, said the fact that Mientkiewicz was a midseason addition and a late-inning replacement makes his claim to the ball tenuous. If he had made a leaping catch to secure the victory, been a major contributor during the regular season or even a weathered franchise leon years, fans and courts might be more sympathetic.

"The notion that Mientkiewicz did anything is absurd. He didn't do anything," Finkelman said. "He caught an underhanded toss from a pitcher. This is what he did." He said it was the World Series. It's simply considered that it ended at first base."

Of course, there was this little incident back in 1986.

"I understand that there's some irony in that," Finkelman said when reminded of the routine grounder that went through Bill Buckner's legs. "Because not every first baseman in Boston does his job."

By comparison, Curt Schilling could make a legitimate claim to the sock he wore when he pitched in the Series. Although the sock was the team's, the blood was his.



Red Sox first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz kept the ball from the final out of the 2004 World Series against the Cardinals. The Red Sox want it back.

"It's his blood that makes it valuable," Abrams said. "Mientkiewicz doesn't add any value that made it unique to him."

Soon after Bonds' 73rd home run cleared the fence at Pabst Park, it landed in the middle of a skirmish in the stands that spilled into the courts. In Popov v. Hayashi, California Superior Court Judge Kevin McCarthy considered the claim that Major League Baseball still owned the ball after the homer and "later gifted it to Mr. Hayashi."

"There is no evidence to support it," the judge wrote.

Instead, the ball belonged to Major League Baseball until it was hit, and as it flew out of the ballpark it became "intentionally abandoned property."

"The first person who came in possession of the ball became its new owner," McCarthy decided. Then they fought over what constituted possession, with McCarthy ruling the ball should be sold at auction so the proceeds could be split between them.

But that ball left the playing field, Mientkiewicz's was still part of the game when he gloved it. And he wasn't a fan who bought a ticket in the outfield arcade; he was a Red Sox employee in his workplace doing his job.

"Clearly teams have agreed that when the ball is hit out of the park, it's abandoned. But they have never said that when it's in the park it's abandoned," Finkelman said.

That makes Mientkiewicz like a researcher scientist who makes a lucrative discovery at work: He's sure to get an attorney from the boss, but the royalties and patents probably belong to the company.

"We know if he found the ball in the woods, it's his. But he didn't find the ball in the woods," Abrams said. "Does that mean any first baseman that catches any ball that arrives at first base owns the ball? Of course not."

Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said the team is negotiating for the ball through Mientkiewicz's agent. The logical and expected solution is for Mientkiewicz to own the ball and lend it to the Red Sox so they can display it.

Lucchino also said the team is working on a policy to avoid another fight over, say, the ball that clinched the first Red Sox World Series repeat since 1918.

Finkelman thinks Major League Baseball needs to clarify the rules for the whole industry. "MLB should decide that the winning team should be able to dispose of the game ball," he said. "And, in general, when a player reaches a milestone, it's simply good sportsmanship" to give it to him.



Carlos Beltran, sitting at Shea Stadium, was impressed when Mets GM Omar Minaya visited him in Puerto Rico on a recruiting visit earlier this month.

## Los Mets: Minaya's recruiting lands blue-chip free agents

LOS METS, FROM BACK PAGE

said last week from the Dominican.

Martinez's decision to sign a \$53 million, four-year contract with New York helped persuade Beltran to reach agreement on a \$119 million, seven-year deal.

After having dinner at the White House on Jan. 10, Minaya announced Beltran's deal at Shea Stadium the following day. Then he held a news conference on Jan. 12 with Beltran at the Mets' spring training camp in Port St. Lucie, Fla., and another the next day in Puerto Rico.

"He's always looking for the well-being of Latinos and now he's with Tony Bernazard, who comes from the Players' Association," Beltran said. "I'm going to be very well taken care of."

"I've known Omar since I was 18. They came to Puerto Rico to meet with me, which other teams did not do," he said. "That showed me they really wanted me."

Minaya publicly thanked Beltran's wife, Jessica, after the negotiations, clearly understanding her importance in the process.

While Minaya plays down the language and cultural bond he shares with Martinez and Beltran, his strategy to pump up a team that hasn't been to the playoffs since 2000 seems to be working.

Delgado said the Latin influence in the Mets and Minaya's approach makes the team "a little more attractive."

"It's really the person, but the language helps," Minaya said.

Martinez is doing his part in the recruiting effort.

"I explained to Carlos Delgado the plans the Mets have to become a championship team," Mar-

tinez said Wednesday. "I've also talked to Sammy Sosa, and he told me that it would be an honor to play with me in New York."

Sosa could be available in a trade at the right price.

New York has a large Hispanic population, one that could help the new regional sports network the Mets intend to start in 2006.

Stars attract fans, as the Yankees have shown.

"Diversity is good business," Minaya said.

A 14th-round selection of the Oakland Athletics in 1978, Minaya had a short playing career that included a brief stint in Italy.

He then worked his way up from area scout to scouting director with the Rangers and in 1998 became the Mets' assistant general manager.

He was turned down half a dozen times for GM jobs before his breakthrough in 2002, when baseball Commissioner Bud Selig hired him to become GM of the Expos.

Montreal, which had been purchased by the other 29 teams, had only a handful of employees left when Minaya took over.

His deals helped keep the Expos in contention into the second half of the season in 2002 and 2003, but by 2004, the second season in which baseball moved some of the Expos' home games to Sun Jams, there was little front-line talent left.

Montreal faded on the field — and into history, too. The Expos became the Washington Nationals last month.

Minaya takes in stride the attention that comes from a high-profile job.

"It's a passing thing. I've been around long enough to know that what's hot today is forgotten tomorrow," he said.

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# Agassi trumps Johannson's record 51 aces

## He'll face Federer next; Sharapova, Kuznetsova also to meet in quarters

BY JOHN PYTE  
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andre Agassi overcame a record number of aces from Joachim Johansson on Sunday and set up an Australian Open quarterfinal against defending champion and top-ranked Roger Federer.

Agassi, an eight-time Grand Slam winner and four-time champion in Melbourne, produced one of his great performances to defeat the 6-foot-6 Johansson, who slammed 51 aces in their fourth-round match.

One of the best service returners in tennis, the 34-year-old Agassi endured Johannson's barrage, breaking the Swede three times to win 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Agassi dropped his own serve twice, at the start of the first and fourth sets, and made only 13 unforced errors in the match — none in the first set.

"It was a tough day," said Agassi.

The 11th-seeded Johannson was pushing the limits on almost every shot. He mixed 66 unforced errors with a remarkable 96 winners, including his aces and service winners.

The 22-year-old Johannson surpassed Richard Krajicek's mark of 49 aces in a quarterfinal loss to Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the 1999 U.S. Open.

His final three aces came in his last service game.

"Joachim today was hitting the ball so big," Agassi said. "What can you do but sort of react?"

"I was anxious the whole time," he added. "I had to stay focused and disciplined, give myself a look and hope I can convert on the few chances I do get."

Johansson didn't know of the record until after the match. He said he might be able to improve on it in future.

Federer, whose 11 titles in 2004 included three majors, extended his winning streak to 25 matches with a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) defeat of Marcos Baghdatis.

Marat Safin, who lost to Federer in last year's final here, converted just one of his 18 break-point chances in a fiery 4-6, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (2) win over Olivier



Andre Agassi makes a backhand return to Joachim Johansson during his fourth-round match in the Australian Open. Despite Johannson's 51 aces, Agassi advanced to the quarterfinals against No. 1 Roger Federer.

er Rochus that lasted 3 hours, 42 minutes.

Safin was given a code violation for spiking his racket into the court, twice for good measure, after wasting three opportunities to get back on serve in the fifth game of the third set.

After receiving the code violation from umpire Andreas Engel, he belted the broken racket three times on a drink cooler at the side of the court.

"I had so many chances to break him and I couldn't and I was a little bit upset at that," said Safin, adding that he crunched the racket to let off some steam. "It was very important."

In the end, he closed with two aces, taking his total to 29 for the match. He next faces Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty, who beat the other Swedish Johannson in the draw — 2002 Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson — 7-5, 6-3, 6-1.

Federer has won 48 of his past 50 matches, and hasn't lost since the second round in the Athens Olympics last August.

Baghdatis broke Federer's serve once and stunned the 23-year-old Swiss star with some brilliant crosscourt forehands in



Maria Sharapova yells as she celebrates her fourth-round victory over Silvia Farina Elia in the Australian Open in the three sets.

the third set.

Federer, who beat Baghdatis in the last U.S. Open in the 19-year-old Cypriot's only other appearance in a major, fell behind 3-0 in the tiebreaker before rolling off five straight points.

"I enjoyed the battle for sure," said Federer. "After I've won, it always good to battle it out and win it."

Two of Russia's three Grand Slam title holders are into the quarterfinals.

U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova pounded 29 winners to overcome one Russian — 6-4, 6-2 over Vera Doucheneva — and faces another in the quarterfinals.

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, seeded fourth, will face Kuznetsova next after coming back from a set and a break down to beat Italy's Silvia Farina

Elia 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

The 17-year-old Sharapova ran off seven consecutive games and broke Farina Elia's last seven service games.

"I'm excited. I know it's going to be another tough match," Sharapova said of Kuznetsova. "I'm prepared. I'm just going to go out like I've been going out and playing my game, having fun, enjoying it and fighting to win."

Three of the seven Russian women who made the fourth round already are out.

Seventh-seeded Serena Williams, who won here in 2003 but didn't return last year because of an injured knee, was clearly angry with herself as she dropped a set for the first time this tournament to defeat No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt on Saturday night.

### Tennis scoreboard

#### Australian Open

Sunday  
At Melbourne Park  
Melbourne, Australia  
Purse: \$14.5 million (Grand Slam)  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor  
Singles

**Fourth Round**  
Roger Federer (Switzerland), def. Marcos Baghdatis (Cyprus), 6-2, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (2).  
Thomas Johansson (30), Sweden, 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.  
Andre Agassi (8), United States, def. Joachim Johansson (11), Sweden, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1).  
Marat Safin (4), Russia, def. Olivier Rochus (5), Belgium, 4-6, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (2).

**Women**  
**Fourth Round**  
Svetlana Kuznetsova (5), Russia, def. Vera Doucheneva (Russia), 6-4, 6-2.  
Amelie Mauresmo (2), France, def. Evgenia Litskayeva (Russia), 6-2, 6-1.  
Maria Sharapova (4), Russia, def. Silvia Farina Elia (15), Italy, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.  
Serena Williams (7), United States, def. Nadia Petrova (11), Russia, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

**Doubles**

**Third Round**

Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett (5), Zimbabwe, def. Alex Calatrava and David Ferrer (Spain), 7-5 (2), 6-2.  
Bob and Mike Bryan (2), United States, def. Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram (13), Israel, 6-3, 6-4.  
Jurgen Melzer, Austria, and Alexander Ljajic (1), Serbia, def. Lu Chuan (Taiwan) and Takao Suzuki (Japan), 7-5, 7-6 (3).

James Blake and Mary Fiat (United States), def. Karol Beck, Slovakia, and Sargis Sargsian (Armenia), 6-4, 6-2.  
Mahesh Bhupathi, India, and Todd Woodbridge (3), Australia, def. Albert Costa and Rafael Nadal (Spain), 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

**Fourth Round**

Anastasia Kuznetsov and Vera Zvonareva (1), Russia, def. Li Ting and Sun Tian Tian (China), 7-5, 6-2.  
Jennifer Russell (United States), and Mara Santangelo (Italy), def. Elena Dementieva (Russia), 6-4, 6-3.  
Lindsay Davenport and Corina Morariu (15), United States, def. Eva Birnbaum, Czech Republic, and Andrea Vanc, Romania, 6-2, 6-4.

Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, and Martina Navratilova (United States), def. Shingo Asagoe, Japan, and Katarina Srebotnik (4), Slovenia, 6-4, 6-4.

Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, and Alona Molik (6), Australia, def. Milagros Sequera, Venezuela, and Meilen Tu (United States), 6-3, 6-3.

**Mixed**

Andy Ram, Israel, and Conchita Martinez, Spain, def. Sebastian Prieto and Gaston Gaudio, Argentina, 5-7, 7-6 (8), 7-6 (6).

Rich List (United States), def. Juan Pablo Aguero Pascual, Spain, def. Jonathan Erlich, Israel, and Sun Tian Tian, China, 6-3, 7-6 (4).  
Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur, Australia, def. Mark Knowles, Bahamas, and Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, 6-3, 7-6 (2).

Kevin Ullyett, Zimbabwe, and Lelei Huber (4), South Africa, def. Todd Perry, Australia, and Milagros Sequera, Venezuela, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (5).

Wayne Arthurs and Tjuri Musgrave, Australia, def. Chris Hoggard, South Africa, and Meilen Tu (United States), 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4).

Franksej Kuc, Czech Republic, and Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, def. Simon Aspelin, Sweden, and Yan Zi, China, 6-3, 6-4.

Wayne and Cara Black (2), Zimbabwe, def. Peter Luczak and Jaislyn Hewitt, Australia, 6-3, 6-3.

mo of France had a 6-2, 6-4 win over Evgenia Litskayeva in a mistake-prone match with 11 service breaks.

Mauresmo raced to a 4-0 lead but needed a medical timeout after dropping her serve for the first time and returned to court with her left thigh wrapped.

She had trouble on serve after the drop ball, and then in the first set and twice in the second.

Juan Ignacio Chela was fined \$2,000 by tournament referee Peter Bellenger for unsportsmanlike conduct in his third-round loss to against No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt on Saturday night.

Chela became angry when he thought Hewitt celebrated too much on an unforced error that had given the Australian triple break point.

He drove his next serve at Hewitt, allowing the Australian to convert the break and then appeared to spit toward Hewitt when the players were switching sides.

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# Raich gains ground as Miller fails in slalom

The Associated Press

KITZBUHEL, Austria — Austria's Manfred Pranger won a slalom Sunday for his first World Cup victory, with countryman Mario Matt the runner-up. Overall leader Bode Miller lost his balance and failed to qualify for the second leg.

Pranger won in 1 minute, 31.51 seconds in his first top-three finish since a runner-up result in a slalom a little more than a year ago. Matt, the 2001 world slalom champion, was 0.12 seconds behind.

Croatia's Ivica Kostelic prevented an Austrian sweep by finishing third, 0.24 beat. It was his second top-three finish after he was runner-up in a slalom in Wengen, Switzerland.

Miller never swerved off course a few gates from the bottom on the opening leg. The American was forced to finish the gates from the reverse direction, leaving him 2.11 off the pace.

It was the fifth slalom Miller has failed to finish this season.

The only one he completed was the night race he won in Sestriere, Italy, in mid-December.

"I was getting stuck a lot," Miller said. "The snow changes the whole way down. It's little parts of really grippy snow and little parts of icy snow."

"I haven't been skiing enough

slalom to feel super comfortable on that," he added. "But you see guys like [Benjamin] Raich and [Kalle] Palander who ski a ton slalom and they're still having problems there. The snow favors the people who don't make mistakes."

Miller's early exit allowed Raich to narrow the gap in the overall standings. The Austrian earned 32 points and is 166 behind Miller, who leads with 1,048. Miller has picked up 60 points in the last four races while Raich has accumulated 192.

## Paerson wins at Maribor; Poutiainen wins slalom title

MARIBOR, Slovenia — Anja Paerson of Sweden won a slalom for the first time this season Sunday while rival Tanja Poutiainen of Finland was first to capture the overall slalom title.

Paerson recorded the 14th victory of her World Cup career, tearing down the slope on a sunny day to finish both runs in 1 minute 32.38 seconds, 0.28 ahead of Croatia's Ivica Kostelic.

"This place is special for me," Paerson said. "It's been a frustrating year in slalom. It's good to come back in good shape for the upcoming world championships."

For the United States, Sarah Schleper was fourth to match a career best while Kristina Koznick

## Sports briefs

was fifth and Lindsey Kildow 11th.

"I think the whole team is confident," said Kildow, who won a downhill at Lake Louise, Alberta, this season. "But the best thing is not to think about medals and concentrate on good skiing."

Poutiainen was third in 1:32.73, wrapping up the slalom title with 520 points entering the final race in Lenzerheide, Switzerland. Marlies Schild is second with 376, followed by Koznick at 355.

Poutiainen has established herself as one of the favorites for the world championships, which start Jan. 30 in Italy in Santa Caterina. She built her lead in the overall standings and now has 902 points. Kostelic is at 879 and Paerson jumped to third with 856. Kildow is sixth with 691.

## Jags' Taylor has knee surgery

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jaguars running back Fred Taylor had surgery to repair a partially torn ligament in his left knee.

His availability for the team's offseason program is in question, but Jacksonville expects its top offensive player to make a complete recovery before training camp.

Taylor sprained his medial collateral ligament Dec. 19 against Green Bay and missed the final two games of the season. Tests later revealed the tear, and Taylor had arthroscopic surgery in Miami on Thursday.

## Lennox Lewis wants to fight Klitschko again

LONDON — Almost a year after he retired, former world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis says he wants to get back into the ring in November to fight Vitali Klitschko, holder of the WBC title he relinquished.

Now the father of a baby daughter, Lewis told the tabloid Sunday Mirror he was tired of hearing Klitschko saying that the former champion was scared to fight him again.

The two men fought out a bloody contest in June 2003 when challenger Klitschko lost on bad cuts after dominating the championship for six rounds.

"That was Lewis' last fight and he was booed out of the ring after a poor performance against the Ukrainian, who demanded a rematch."

"I've had to listen to a lot of rubbish from Klitschko and he is starting to get on my nerves," said Lewis, who is now age 39 and has a 41-1-2 record.

"I'm making a comeback later

this year. I'm going to start training seriously and I'm going back to England to start sorting this out," said Lewis, who lives in Jamaica's Montego Bay.

## Mayweather stops Bruseses in eight rounds

MIAMI — Floyd Mayweather Jr. took a step toward a title in a third weight class by stopping Henry Bruseses with 55 seconds left in the eighth round Saturday night.

Mayweather, former WBC super featherweight and lightweight champion and pursuing a crown in the 140-pound class, was never in trouble as his quick combinations frustrated Bruseses in the scheduled 12-round bout at American Airlines Arena.

While Mayweather set the tone in the fight with his speed, he used an impressive power-punching display in the eighth to send Bruseses to the canvas with a left-right combination to the head.

The Puerto Rican Bruseses (21-3-1, 13 KOs) got to his feet but Mayweather (33-0, 22 KOs) was ready with a left to the body, which set up an additional series of unanswered shots to the head.

Bruseses again fell to the canvas but again beat the 10-count.

However, Bruseses' trainer Evangelista Cotto stepped into the ring and instructed referee Jorge Alonso to stop the fight.

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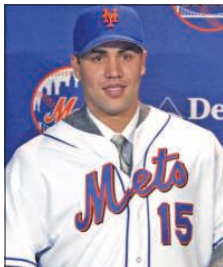
## SPORTS

## The making of 'Los Mets'



AP photos

The Mets' Omar Minaya, the first Hispanic general manager in Major League Baseball, has signed the two biggest names on the free-agent market this winter — pitcher Pedro Martinez (top right) and center fielder Carlos Beltran (bottom right). He is pursuing slugger Carlos Delgado. Minaya's charm, personal touch and understanding of Latino culture has been an attraction for Hispanic players.



**Agassi weathers barrage of aces to set up match with Federer**

Page 29



**Hinrich helps Bulls reach .500 with win over Pistons**

Page 30

## Minaya's touch a big hit with Latino free agents

BY RICARDO ZUNIGA  
The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Omar Minaya takes the podium, speaks a few words in English, then stops.

"Since we are in Puerto Rico," he said, "I think we should do this in Spanish."

With charm and a personal touch, the new Mets general manager convinced Pedro Martinez and Carlos Beltran to sign with New York's No. 2 team, rapidly remaking their image as "Los Mets."

Born in the Dominican Republic and the first Hispanic GM in the major leagues, Minaya figured money alone wouldn't get the deals done with arguably the highest-profile pitcher and position player in the free-agent market.

He knew language, family values and respect would be important factors, too, with his fellow Hispanics.

So Minaya decided to visit Martinez in the Dominican Republic on Thanksgiving and see Beltran in Puerto Rico earlier this month.

"The intuition of me under-

standing the culture led me to our strategy (which) was one of, 'Let's go one step further, let's go there,'" Minaya said last week in San Juan.

Minaya met with Carlos Delgado twice last week in Puerto Rico, hoping to lure him to visit Beltran christened the "new Mets."

Quick work so far by Minaya, who was the Montreal Expos' GM until being hired by the Mets in the final week of last season. He now is in charge of reviving a team that went 71-91 for its third straight losing year.

In Minaya, 46, the Mets got someone with his own distinctive style.

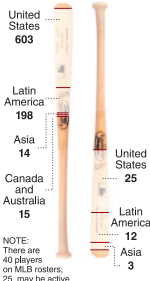
During his scouting days with the Texas Rangers, he helped sign Sammy Sosa and Juan Gonzalez. To make ends meet on his climb up in baseball, he worked all over New York, including a stint selling perfume at the Bloomingdale's counter.

"I used to do all kinds of side jobs, between working in the meat district to doing modeling," Minaya said. "I really liked being

## A foreign flavor

The New York Mets are trying to become a destination for more Latin American stars.

Major League N.Y. Mets



NOTE: There are 40 players on MLB rosters; 25 may be active.

SOURCES: MLB, New York Mets

AP

in the meatpacking district. We worked hard. We packed the meat, then went all over delivering it."

There's no doubt he's doing well now. Last week, he had dinner at the White House with his old boss with the Rangers — President Bush.

"The fact that I'm in New York, the fact that I was raised right next to Shea Stadium, the fact that I come from immigrant parents, sometimes you step back and say, 'How did you get here?'" he said.

Minaya was born in Valverde, a small town in the Dominican Republic. His parents moved to New York when he was 8 and settled in Queens, a 10-minute drive from Shea Stadium. His father worked on the Brooklyn docks and his mother in a factory.

Minaya says he is embarrassed by the attention and repeatedly cites his staff: Tony Bernazard, Jim Duquette and John Ricco.

"These guys are really the guys who do most of the work and should get most of the credit," he



**Second-half rally shows Pitt is beast of the East**

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The NFC and AFC championship games started too late to be included in this edition. See stripes.com for results and Tuesday's edition of Stars and Stripes for complete coverage.



SEE LOS METS ON PAGE 28